Jewish Federation of Arkansas Collection Available

For more than 100 years, the organization now known as the Jewish Federation of Arkansas has played a critical role in the life of the Jewish community throughout the state. The Butler Center is pleased to make available to researchers a collection of materials documenting the history and work of this important organization. The Jewish Federation of Arkansas collection (MSS.13.28) contains organizational records, financial reports, correspondence, public relations material, and other items relating to local, national, and international events and issues.

Butler Center to Host The Art of Injustice Exhibition

In 1945, as World War II was nearing an end, Paul Faris, a Hendrix College professor and photographer, was commissioned to photograph Japanese Americans who had been forced from their homes on the West Coast and incarcerated in Arkansas’s Rohwer War Relocation Authority center. His assignment was to photograph Rohwer’s artists as they painted, carved, wove, practiced calligraphy, etc., and to capture images of their artwork. Faris’s wife, Ann Faris, a Conway public school teacher, took notes and interviewed many who appeared in the photographs. Paul Faris shot approximately 200 black-and-white photographs from which Allen H. Eaton chose a handful for publication in his book Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our Relocation Camps.

From August 11 to December 30, forty of these images will be on display in the Concordia Hall Gallery in the Arkansas Studies Institute building in Little Rock. The exhibition is the work of historian and curator Professor Sarah Wilkerson Freeman of Arkansas State University. In cooperation with Mary Ann Thurmond and Tim Faris (the children of the late Paul and Ann Faris), Prof. Freeman has created a public history exhibition that tells the story not only of the incarceration experience at Rohwer...
Thanks to these sponsors of the Butler Center’s monthly Arkansas Sounds Concert Series

Cont. from Jewish Federation, p. 1

In the 1930s and 1940s, the organization sponsored a series of conventions, called the Arkansas Jewish Assembly, with the purpose of strengthening Jewish identity for individuals and for the community. This program was revived in the 1980s through the sponsorship of a yearly public presentation, bringing in speakers such as historian and author Max Di- mont and entertainers such as the Avodah Dance Ensemble.

Also of interest in the collection is material about federation-sponsored visits to Arkansas by author Elie Wiesel, author Chaim Potok, and violinist Itzhak Perlman. The visit by Perlman also affected the larger community as it required a commitment by Robinson Center Music Hall to become handicapped accessible. The process is documented in this collection.

Cont. from Art of Injustice, p. 1

Rohwer, one of ten such camps in the nation, but also of the impact this extreme injustice had on local Arkansans, such as Pulitzer Prize–winning poet John Gould Fletcher and artists H. Louis Freund and Elsie Freund. The exhibition will also include art and artifacts from the Butler Center’s extensive collections, including many from the Butler Center’s Rosalie Santine Gould-Mabel Jamison Vogel Collection.

The JFA has been particularly active in providing the larger community with resources and opportunities for Holocaust education and remembrance. In addition to documents related to these programs, the collection contains three laminated scrapbooks from conferences sponsored by the federation to train educators and provide materials for teaching about the Holocaust at all levels.

Organized topically, the collection contains material about the administration of the organization, its annual campaigns, and its numerous educational and social events. Other topics covered include political advocacy, ecumenical and interfaith sensitivity efforts, refugees and immigration, and support of Israel and other Jewish causes. The collection is available in the Research Room in the Arkansas Studies Institute building, and the finding aid is available online here.

“By bringing these photos to light, those involved hope to preserve something of the visual evidence of the unconstitutional treatment of Japanese Americans while simultaneously demythologizing the camp experience,” explained Prof. Freeman. “There is a lot of misinformation about the mass incarceration in 1942 of more than 120,000 individuals based solely on their ethnic and racial backgrounds. It is important for the histories of those whose lives were so painfully disrupted to be preserved for future generations to study. In Arkansas in particular, as part of the historically Jim Crow South, this episode is also a chapter in the story of an emerging social consciousness that gave rise to the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1950s and 1960s.”

The exhibition opening will be at 2nd Friday Art Night in the Concordia Hall Gallery on August 11, 5–8 p.m., with the curator’s presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Invitation to a cultural event in 2011—from the JFA Collection.
A Word from the Center
David Stricklin, Director of the Butler Center

I remember the corny commercials for cars and washing machines during childhood summers: “Get down here to Joe’s Used Cars/Appliance Emporium/Rowboat Ranch/whatever else and catch these deals! They’re hotter than a two-dollar pistol on the Fourth of July!” Well, it is hot, at least in this part of the country. But the deals are indeed hotter at the Butler Center.

We’re all very excited about approaching the 5,000 mark on Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture entries. Be watching for the countdown to 5,000. I’m kind of fascinated to see what ends up being the 5,000th entry. Congratulations to Guy Lancaster and his great crew.

We’re proud of the Butler Center’s Mike Polston, who can now add TV star to his already star-studded résumé, as a result of his triumphant appearance with Butler Center Books author Elizabeth Griffin Hill, on the Steve Barnes’s “Arkansas Week” show on AETN. Their work on World War I has been justly celebrated near and far.

We’re grateful to Kim Sanders and Colin Thompson for their work on a terrific exhibition coming up on the wonderful Paul Faris photographs. This exhibition, curated and produced by Professor Sarah Wilkerson Freeman of Arkansas State University, will be the Butler Center’s fifth major exhibition of work on the Japanese American confinement camps in Arkansas during World War II.

We’re tickled that our “Chewing the Fat with Rex and Paul” podcast co-stars Rex Nelson and Paul Austin have seen the insatiable appetite for their food-based commentary spill over into live shows, such as June’s “Potluck and Poison Ivy” event at the Joint. We’re also hosting one of the screening events in advance of the September premiere of the new Ken Burns/Lynn Novick documentary series The Vietnam War, in partnership with AETN and Arkansas Public Media, featuring the Butler Center’s Brian Robertson and our Arkansas Vietnam War Project. I’m also very proud we will host the second annual Betsy Wright Distinguished Lecture by the historian emeritus of the U.S. Senate, Donald A. Ritchie, on the history of women in the U.S. Senate, starting with Arkansas’s (and the nation’s) first woman senator, Hattie Caraway, who was elected in 1932. Ritchie will be introduced by former U.S. senator Blanche Lincoln.

I’m relieved that our staff educator, George West, survived virtually back-to-back big, complicated events for Arkansas teachers. I’m also proud of our Arkansas Sounds producer, John Miller, and brand-new programming coordinator, Shelle Stormoe, who presided over the largest single-month program attendance in almost five years, more than 5,000 people—again, in one month.

Shelle started the day after Memorial Day and hit the ground zooming!

And I can’t wait for the Hot Club of Cowtown, our Arkansas Sounds concert on September 29. Click here for information on the band and how to get tickets.

Finally, we’re indebted to the countless people who contribute to what we do on behalf of Arkansas history—from the ones who come to our events and use our resources, both in person and online, to the ones who tell us about leads and give us precious documents and photographs, to the ones whose financial support keeps us going, thriving, and driving forward into the bright future we all hope our efforts can help bring about. It’s hot. Come check us out!

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Summer 2017

The State of State Encyclopedias
By Guy Lancaster, editor of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

The University Press of Mississippi recently published the Mississippi Encyclopedia, a 1,451-page book containing 1,400 entries. There are plans for a version of this encyclopaedia to go online next year. When the EOA went live in 2006, the only other online encyclopedias in the South were those of Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas, but since that time Alabama, Virginia, and Louisiana have joined us. Other states are hard at work on their own projects.

As I write this, the Encyclopedia of Arkansas has 4,968 entries online. Chances are that this newsletter will go out before we reach 5,000, so look for the next issue to find out the identity of our 5,000th uploaded entry. When we started out over a decade ago, we were heavily influenced by the online encyclopedias then available, and I continue, rather shamelessly, to steal what good ideas I see—as well as encourage those developing their own reference works to plunder our website for concepts.

If we’ve been successful in sustaining our momentum after eleven years online, it’s because we have evolved over time, allowing our numerous contributors to take part in a changing, dynamic project. When we started, we aimed to cover the basics for students—all the counties and county seats, major municipalities, governors, major Civil War battles, and significant landmarks. But we have gradually expanded to include hundreds of smaller communities, constitutional officers and judges, minor skirmishes of the Civil War, and all properties on the National Register—and so much more.

We’re working hard to develop state-specific content that can be found nowhere else, and though I love stealing ideas from other state encyclopedias, the best ideas by far come from our readers, the people who regularly use our site and let us know what they want to read. They are the ones driving us to the 5,000-entry mark—and beyond. Here’s hoping Mississippi has readers half as devoted as those in Arkansas.
Butler Center Books, the publishing division of the Central Arkansas Library System, has several announcements: two award-winning books, one new Arkansas-related for fall, and a second edition of another favorite title.

Two books have been chosen as 2017 award winners by the Arkansas Library Association (ALA): A Captive Audience: Voices of Japanese American Youth in World War II Arkansas, edited by Ali Welky, and Rex Nelson’s Southern Fried: Going Whole Hog in a State of Wonder.

The Arkansas Library Association is recognizing the best Arkansas-related books published during the years 2015–16. A Captive Audience won the Arkansiana Award in the Juvenile category and Southern Fried won the Arkansiana Award in the Adult Non-fiction category. The awards will be presented during the ALA’s annual conference in late September in Rogers.

This fall, Butler Center will release Seeds of Genius: Twenty-Five Years of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, edited by Arkansas Black Hall of Fame co-founder Charles O. Stewart. The Hall of Fame was founded in 1992 by Stewart and Patricia Y. Goodwin-McCullough as a means of recognizing African American achievers with Arkansas roots. Each year, six individuals from diverse fields of endeavor are recognized for their contribution to African American culture, to the state of Arkansas, and to the nation and world.

This commemorative volume, compiled with assistance from the editors of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, collects the life stories of all those inducted during the first quarter century of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. The inductees have not just shaped the state of Arkansas—they have shaped the world at large, and their influence can be traced across the globe.

Charles Stewart is the co-founder and chair of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. He served as interim chief executive officer at Heifer International and is a former executive with Regions Financial Corp., where he directed community development and rural development. He is currently engaged in real estate development and lives in Little Rock. Seeds of Genius will be available in September (hardcover, $39.95).

Later this fall, Butler Center Books will issue an expanded version of its statewide bestseller It’s Official!: The Real Stories behind Arkansas’s State Symbols by Arkansas State Capitol historian David Ware. During the 2017 session, the Arkansas Legislative Assembly expanded the state’s complement of official state symbols. This revised second edition includes an additional chapter on Arkansas’s newest symbol: the state dinosaur, Arkansaurus fridayi. In a recent review of the book in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Derek R. Everett wrote: “Every state ought to have its symbols and emblems presented in the style of It’s Official!, a book that forces those of us who had doubted our own icons’ value to look at them afresh. Together, Ware’s writing and the use of illustrations make the subject matter pop. This book deserves a spot on the shelf of every patriotic Arkansan.” The second edition will be available in October (paperback, $22.95.)

Butler Center Books, which publishes around six books a year, is funded solely through sales of its books and donations from the public. Donations may be made through www.cals.org by clicking on the CALS Foundation tab. Butler Center Books has more than fifty titles in print and available to order. For a complete list, click here. Our
books are available in bookstores, including River Market Books & Gifts on the Main Library campus in Little Rock at (501) 918-3093; from major online retailers; and from our distributor at (800) 621-2736. Your purchase of our books as well as your donations will help ensure that we continue to bring you the best in Arkansas history. For purchasing information, click here.

The University of Arkansas Press will also present several notable Arkansas-related titles this fall. Butler Center Books and the University of Arkansas Press share the mission of publishing works on the history and culture of Arkansas and the South. A new book from UA Press, Dardanelle and the Bottoms and The Ozarks, as well as editions of the classics The Ozarks and Womenfolks, will be of particular interest to those who study Arkansas history.

As detailed in Dardanelle and the Bottoms by Mildred Diane Gleason, between 1819 and 1970, the town of Dardanelle, Arkansas, located on the south side of the Arkansas River in Yell County, experienced sustained prosperity and growth made possible by the nearby farming community known as the Dardanelle Bottoms. The reciprocal economic relationship between the town and the Bottoms, stable for decades, began to unravel in the late 1940s with changes in farming, particularly the cotton industry. In Dardanelle and the Bottoms, Gleason explores this complex rural/town dichotomy, revealing and analyzing key components of each area, including aspects of race, education, the cotton economy and its demise, the devastation of floods and droughts, leisure, crime, and the impact of the Great Depression. (The memoir Muzzled Oxen: Reaping Cotton and Sowing Hope in 1920s Arkansas by Genevieve Grant Sadler, published by Butler Center Books in 2014, gives a vivid and personal look at the same area in the early twentieth century.)

As exemplified in The Ozarks, author Vance Randolph was perfectly constituted for his role as the chronicler of Ozark folkways. As a self-described “hack writer,” he was as much a figure of the margins as his chosen subjects, even as his essentially romantic identification with the region he first visited as the vacationing child of mainstream parents was encouraged by editors and tempered by his scientific training. The Ozarks, originally published in 1931, offers Randolph’s first book-length portrait of the people he would spend the next half century studying. With a new introduction by editor Robert Cochran, The Ozarks is the second entry in the Chronicles of the Ozarks series, a reprint series that will make available some of the Depression era’s Ozarks books. An image shaper in its day, a cultural artifact for decades to come, this wonderful book is as entertaining as ever.

Womenfolks by Shirley Abbott, a classic that has been in print since its first publication in 1983, is both a personal memoir and a meditation on the often pernicious mythologies of southern cultural history. Shirley Abbott gives us the gritty, independent women of the backwoods, the South’s true heroines, whose hardscrabble world is one of red dirt and hard work—a far cry from the hoop-skirts and magnolias of southern lore. As honest, vibrant, and remarkable as the women whose stories illuminate these pages, Womenfolks draws a vivid portrait of a rural culture beset by poverty and sustained by deeply rooted traditions. In her new preface to this edition, Abbott assesses what has changed—and what may never change—about the burdens of southern history and expresses her hope that the better angels of our nature may prevail in our still-new century.
Jack Uyeyama and his family visited from Sacramento on May 10. During World War II, Uyeyama was held at Jerome then Rohwer. The family was passing through Arkansas and wanted to visit Rohwer and Jerome. They had heard about the Butler Center and our collection from the film *Relocation, Arkansas*, which serendipitously aired on PBS in their hotel room the night they stayed in Arkansas.

For May’s Legacies & Lunch, Betsy Spetich of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality told “tales from the trash,” in which she discussed what can be learned from digging through a culture’s refuse.

The Rodney Block Collective presented music from Spike Lee’s films for Arkansas Sounds’ July event.

Director/writer Juli Jackson and lead actor Jason Thompson at the June 16 Arkansas Sounds–sponsored showing of Jackson’s film *45 RPM*.

On June 30, Arkansas Sounds hosted a patriotic concert from the Dave Rosen Big Band.

July’s Legacies & Lunch featured Blake Wintory of the Lakeport Plantation heritage site describing new findings into the history of slavery at Lakeport and in Chicot County.
The Butler Center’s Young Historians program expands: Little Rock Central High senior Tristam Thompson (left, black shirt) and others were interviewed on July 13 at the CALS Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center by Parkview senior Brandi Laster (center, white shirt) about the new audio walking tour Voices of Civil Rights—1st Day at Central High, September 1957. Kayla Dean, a recent Hall High graduate who is heading to UCA in the fall, set the audio levels. The Central High Memory Project team, sponsored by the Butler Center, has partnered with student interns at Little Rock’s new community radio station KWCP LPFM 98.9 to produce programming for the 60th anniversary of the desegregation of Central High.

May 16 Sounds in the Stacks show with Michael Heavner (right) at the Max Milam Library in Perryville with Arkansas Sounds sponsor Piano Kraft owner Richard Deutsch.

Mike Polston, staff historian for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, and Butler Center Books author Elizabeth Hill discussed Arkansas in World War I with Steve Barnes at AETN—photo courtesy of AETN.

Rex Nelson and Paul Austin of the “Chewing the Fat with Rex and Paul” podcast at the Joint on June 22 for the Potluck & Poison Ivy event—photo by Melissa Nelson.

Attendees of the 2017 summer seminar for Arkansas teachers—photo by Chris Lacefield Photography.

Arkansas Declaration of Learning Year 2 educators and mentors honored in Little Rock on June 20—photo by Kevin Briggs.
Listen in with Radio CALS

Radio CALS airs on KABF 88.3 FM each Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., featuring music and stories about Arkansas from the collections of the Butler Center and from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, as well as news of CALS programs and services. On the radio show, we preview CALS’s podcasts—Primary Sources, Chewing the Fat with Rex and Paul (with Rex Nelson and Paul Austin), and Radio CALS—and air segments such as Bizarre Arkansas. Radio CALS is presented by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and the CALS Communications and Public Outreach Department.

Listen anytime at Soundcloud, or subscribe to CALS’s Podcasts on iTunes or Google Play. Visit the Radio CALS website for more information.
We need entries, photographs, documents, videos, maps, and audio clips to help make the EOA the most comprehensive and engaging resource on Arkansas history.

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):
- William Howard “Dub” Arnold (1935–)
- Arkansas River Blues Society
- Wayne Hubert Babbitt (1928–1994)
- Bagley-Ridgeway Feud
- Clarence Elmo Bell (1912–1997)
- Henry Garland Bennett (1886–1951)
- Jesse N. “Buddy” Benson (1933–2011)
- Dwight Hale Blackwood (1886–1953)
- Lyle Brown (1908–1984)
- Henry Gaston Bunn (1838–1908)
- Burtsell (Clark County)
- Turner Butler (1869–1938)
- Conley F Byrd (1925–2014)
- Carpenter’s Produce
- June Carter-Perry (1943–)
- John J. Clendenin (1813–1876)
- Mary Connelly (1835–1908)
- Donald Louis Corbin (1938–2016)
- Crisis Pregnancy Centers
- Denver Dale Crumpler (1912–1957)
- Mark Darr (1973–)
- Gregory A. Davis (1948–)
- Clark Wayne Dowd (1941–2016)
- Robert Hamilton (Bob) Dudley (1933–)
- Charles DeWitt Dunn (1945–2013)
- Alan Eastham Jr. (1951–)
- Eddie Mae Herron Center & Museum
- Don Fess (1915–1999)
- Fourth Military District
- Honey Bruce Friedman (1927–2005)
- Frog Town (Sebastian County)
- Jacob Frolich (1837–1890)
- Floyd Hurt Fulkerson Jr. (1921–)
- Virginia Gardner (1904–1992)
- James Albert (Jim) Gaston (1941–2015)
- Thomas Arthur (Tom) Glaze (1938–2012)
- Kay Goss (1941–)
- Lawrence Preston Graves (1916–1994)
- James Houston (Jim) Gunter Jr. (1943–)
- Bill Halter (1960–)
- James Robert (Jim) Hannah (1944–2016)
- Marion Steele Hays (1925–2011)
- Hickman (Mississippi County)
- Darrell David Hickman (1935–)
- Clifton Howard (Cliff) Hoofman
- John Miller Howard (1906–1980)
- Roland Janes (1933–2013)
- Bradley Dean Jesson (1932–2016)
- Jonesboro Municipal Airport
- Deena Kastor (1973–)
- LifeQuest of Arkansas
- Donnie Lee Lindsey Sr. (1924–)
- Little Africa (Polk County)
- Lost Forty Brewing
- Ode Lee Maddox (1912–2001)
- Joseph Kirby “Jodie” Mahony (1939–2009)
- Richard Leon Mays (1943–)
- Paul Moffatt McCain (1920–2003)
- David Miller (1928–)
- David Wiley Mullins Jr. (1946–)
- William David Newbern (1937–)
- North Little Rock Municipal Airport
- Frank Pace (1912–1988)
- Palmyra (Lincoln County)
- Helen Lyle Pettigrew (1894–1977)
- Pick and Shovel [Newspaper]
- John Ingram Purtle (1923–2010)
- Pratt Remmel (1915–1991)
- Conrad Alfred Rideout (?–1906)
- Rivervale Inverted Siphons
- Saddie (Fulton County)
- Cynthia Scott (1951–)
- Barney Alan Sugg (1939–)
- Texarkana Regional Airport
- Blanche Thebom (1915–2010)
- USS Glide
- USS Monarch
- USS Sebastian (AK-211)
- Vaden (Clark County)
- John Lee Webb (1877–1946)
- WOK [Radio Station]
- Carroll D. Wood (1858–1941)
- Susan Webber Wright (1948–)

If you have photos or other media, please contact Mike Keckhaver at mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

Entries Needing Authors:
- Arkansas Catholic [Newspaper]
- Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- ARKids First
- Cooper v. Hensley et al.
- Cotham’s Mercantile
- Cummins Prison Strike of 1974
- Hope Female Institute
- Hotel Como
- KASU [Radio Station]
- Lockhart v. McPhee
- Religious Exemptions to Civil Code
- Josiah H. Shinn
- Speed Traps
- White House Café (Camden)

If you would like to write one of these entries, please contact Guy Lancaster at glancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net.
Inside Our eCollections

This feature of our Butler eBanner invites readers to click their way into our many and varied digital resources.

Reconstruction Timeline Now Available Online

Assembled by Butler Center student workers and staff members in response to an invitation from the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (ACWSC), the “Arkansas and Reconstruction Timeline” is now available to those interested in this tumultuous period in the state’s history.

So many of the conflicts of the war years continued past the end of the war itself that ACWSC members thought it would be valuable to have an online resource outlining the Reconstruction Era in Arkansas. Butler Center student intern Margaret Justus did a great deal of the research and writing, with help from staff of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas and the archives, especially Guy Lancaster, Mike Polston, Brian Robertson, and David Stricklin. Summer worker Scout Snowden provided assistance, and design and layout work were done by CALS web designer Scott Kirkhuff.

Butler Center director David Stricklin said of the project, “We are pleased to offer this timeline to the public so people can better understand what happened in the state following the Civil War and how the legacy of Reconstruction follows us still.”

For even more information on Reconstruction in Arkansas, see Thomas A DeBlack, “Civil War through Reconstruction, 1861 through 1874.” in the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture.