



NOVEMBER 2011 MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday November 10th

Sandra Chait will join us to speak on a subject we have never discussed until now, the growth of a new African immigrant community in our region. And that was the story she published earlier this year with the University of Washington Press as *Seeking Salaam: Ethiopians, Eritreans, and Somalis in the Pacific Northwest*.

“Seeking Salaam” tells the interwoven histories of people from the Horn of Africa facing new lives for themselves in Seattle and Portland. The book is based on oral interviews of over forty local Africans belonging to various Horn ethnicities, clans, and religions. Following flight, persecution, and trauma, history now imprisons some refugees in ghostly webs from the past. Many keep alive the old feuds; they do not move on with their lives in the Pacific Northwest, nor do they acculturate. Fortunately, others do stretch out tentative hands in friendship to their old “enemies” and work cooperatively for the betterment of all Horn of Africa communities. It is with them that the hope for Salaam resides.

Sandra M. Chait, herself an immigrant from South Africa, has long been impressed by the ability of so many refugees and immigrants to live peacefully alongside one another in America despite a history of conflicts. She considers their conflicting stories to be a

less well-known challenge in the immigration process. Dr Chait, currently an independent scholar living and writing in Seattle, received her doctorate in English from the University of Washington where she taught English and African literature and served as Associate Director of the Program of Africa. She is also co-editor of *Hayford Hall: Hangovers, Erotics, and Modernist Aesthetics*.

Please Note: This program and the Guild's other monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. This is a change from previous years. You are welcome to bring non-members and friends as all these meetings are free and open to the public. Meetings are held at the Northeast (branch) Library (6910 35th Ave NE) and begin at 6:30pm.

January Banquet

The date to save for the Annual Banquet is January 12, 2012. That's another Thursday. The place is South Seattle Community College (in West Seattle) and the building is the Brockey Center.

Schedule conflicts and the high costs at the University Club have forced a change of location. As for getting to SCCC, we will arrange car pooling for those who ask. Those who drive will have little trouble finding the location. Directions will be coming soon in a newsletter along with information on prices and menu choices.

Annual Spring Conference

This year's conference will be in May (not March) so as to better mesh with its theme, the opening of the Century 21 Fair fifty years ago. Like the fair itself, it will be held at Seattle Center. It will begin with a reception on the evening of May 11th as a warm up to a full day of talks, walks, luncheon and other activities from 9 am to 5 pm on the 12th.

In the very near future the Guild will issue a Call For Papers. Submissions require a one page proposal including a title, an indication of the form of the proposal (paper, visual, panel, etc.), and a short biography of the presenter. All proposals must have something to do with Century 21 and there are no off limit subjects. Possible subjects are architecture, fair programs, planning, futurism, attendance, city politics, race, gender, food, crime, health, landscaping and even (maybe) the Space Needle. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2012.

The future has arrived! go to <http://pnwhistorians.org/conference/2012/call-for-papers.pdf>

Guild Board Members

To the membership, it often does not seem to matter who is on the Guild's Board as long as the expected functions are carried out. An active board is, however, never easy to assemble. We are sorry to lose Bridget Quinn who has served longer than we had any right to expect. She kept track of our membership over many years and helped organize recent banquets behind the scene. We would like to thank her also for years of board meetings where she contributed to our decisions.

At the same time we are very pleased by the addition of Brian Gann, a recent history graduate of the University of Washington. Brian received word this month that he'll be teaching an eight week course in January for Bellevue Community College. The course will focus on the history of the Northwest, particularly Washington, from Captain Vancouver to World War Two. We at the Guild know that they made a good choice since we have already benefited from his enthusiasm at our board meetings.

We look to our other members to come forward and take a place on the board. If you have enjoyed our events, we hope you will think of the many meetings, banquets and conferences as gifts. Returning those favors is possible by taking part for a year or two on the Guild's board.

Duties are divided between several people and non-technical in most cases. Anyone interested should contact the Newsletter.

November Events

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 15th. At 6:30pm, Book-it presents the Seattle Premier of its reading of *The Future Remembered*, the story of the Century 21 written by members Paula Becker and Alan Stein. Tickets are \$50 for this fundraiser.

Also Curt Fischer asks "Have you ever wanted to learn how to conduct an oral history project? On November 19, the Museum of History & Industry offers an in-depth training in the practice of recording oral history interviews. The workshop, Introduction to Oral History, is offered as part of MOHAI's award-winning Nearby History program, which trains everyday people to do history from scratch."

More information about Introduction to Oral History:
http://seattlehistory.org/visit_us/calendar.php?id=226