



# THE IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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## *Teaching (and Learning) about Arab America: a Survey of Materials*

By Andrew Shryock

Arab immigrant and ethnic communities have been living in North America for over a century. In the U.S. alone there are now roughly two million citizens of Arab descent. Latin America and Canada are also home to old, ethnically diverse Arab populations. There is hardly a significant trend in the study of ethnicity, immigration history, or multicultural policy that cannot be creatively scrutinized through the lens of the Arab experience in the U.S. This was true before the events of September 11, 2001, and it is more urgently the case today. Many scholars who have not studied or taught Arab American topics are now keen to do so. They will be happy to discover that ample literature already exists to meet this demand. Here, I offer a brief guide to both recent innovative work and earlier writings, since the literature that addresses Arab American topics has been developing for much longer than most scholars realize.

The state of Arab American studies is vividly on display in two recent edited volumes: *Arabs in America: Building a New Future*, ed. Michael Suleiman (Temple University Press, 1999) and *Arab Detroit: From Margin to Mainstream*, ed. Nabeel Abraham and Andrew Shryock (Wayne State University Press, 2000). These are big, intellectually ambitious collections, and most of the principal figures in Arab American studies are represented among the contributors. *Arabs in America* is framed on a national scale, and its essays, which cover literature, civil rights law, public health, politics, family, and gender, focus on concerns that have shaped Arab America. The essays are scholarly in tone and generally of high quality. *Arab Detroit*, by contrast, is a close engagement with America's largest and most diverse Arab American community. In addition to scholarly pieces that cover art and culture, food, music, family, ethnic politics, small business, and religious experience, *Arab Detroit* features memoirs and poetry by authors from every major Arab or Arabic-speaking community in Detroit: Lebanese (Christian and Muslim), Palestinians (Christian and Muslim), Iraqi Chaldeans, and Yemenis. Those looking for creative and intellectually rigorous accounts of Arab American identity should begin with these two volumes, each of which has bibliographic resources that lead the interested student or teacher into a larger literature.

Immigration to the U.S. from Arabic-speaking countries began in the late 19th century. There are several studies that would fit nicely into immigration history courses. Two books that complement each other well are Alixa Naff's *Becoming American: The Early Arab*

*Immigrant Experience* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1993) and Akram Khater's *Inventing Home: Immigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870-1920* (University of California Press, 2001). Naff's study, based on dozens of interviews with the early Syrian/Lebanese immigrants and their children, offers a fascinating view of life in assimilationist America; it also gives a detailed account of peddling, an economic niche that was filled by immigrants of diverse national backgrounds. Khater's book is exceptional in its attention to early immigrants who did not "become American," but chose instead to return to Lebanon. Khater shows how return migration affected notions of gender and middle class status in Lebanon. Those interested in the historical roots of transnational identities will find both books useful in their contrasts. Courses on gender and women's studies would be enriched by inclusion of Evelyn Shakir's *Bint Arab: Arab and Arab American Women in the United States* (Praeger, 1997) and *Food for Our Grandmothers: Writings of Arab American and Arab Canadian Feminists*, edited by Joanna Kadi (South End Press, 1994). Each is compellingly written and situated firmly within, yet constructively at odds with, Western feminist scholarship. Shakir's book is a careful interweaving of memoir, autobiography, and interviews with dozens of Arab American women; the result is beautiful as writing and illuminating as social history. *Food for Our Grandmothers* covers similar terrain, but with more boldly stated aesthetic and political agendas; the essays are edgier, and of uneven quality, but the risks often pay off. Moreover, Kadi's critical impulse resonates well with writings that emphasize subaltern, postcolonial, and counter-hegemonic positions. The latest of these anthologies is *The Poetry of Arab Women*, edited by Nathalie Handal (Interlink Publishing Group, 2000), which includes excellent poems by Arab American women as well as poets from other locations in the Arab world and its diasporas.

Arab American religious communities, Muslim and Christian, are explored in several fine-grained monographs. Linda Walbridge's *Without Forgetting the Imam: Lebanese Shi'ism in an American Community* (Wayne State University Press, 1997) deals with the Lebanese Shi'a of Greater Detroit, whose mosques—some of them new and radicalized, others old and moderate—are flourishing. *American Medina: A Study of the Sunni Muslim Immigrant Communities in Chicago*, by Garbi Schmidt (Lund Studies in the History of Religions, vol. 8 [1998]), is a theoretically savvy analysis of Muslim identity politics as it is now

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## News from Libraries, Museums and Research Institutes...

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, both in Philadelphia, completed their merger on January 1, 2002. The combined institution will continue its support of the *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter*. The HSP issued the following statement:

"The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is honored to continue the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies' support of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. Through its merger into the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies has deepened its documentation and service to students of ethnicity and immigration in the United States"

**Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum** is exhibiting "Immigration and Caricature: Ethnic Images in America," on loan from the Michigan State University Museum, June 15-Nov. 30, 2002. The exhibit will run in the museum's Chiu Gallery at One Milk Street in downtown Boston.

The **Chinese American Museum of Los Angeles** now plans the opening of its permanent site at 423-425 N. Los Angeles St. in 2003. Ground-breaking ceremonies occurred in April 2002. For information about the new museum, see the web at <http://www.camla.org/>

The **Museum of the City of New York**, Fifth Ave. at 103rd St., has an exhibition, "A Community of Many Worlds: Arab Americans In New York City." Open until Sept. 1, 2002.

At the **Historical Society of Pennsylvania**, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia: "Strangers in the Land of Strangers: Defining 'American' in Times of Conflict." Through October 2002. A virtual version is on the web at <http://www.hsp.org/exhibits/strangers/>

The **New Italian American Museum** in New York City has now been chartered and is making plans for a museum site. The

organization is currently headquartered at the John D. Calandra American Institute at Queens College, CUNY. Web site of the new museum is:

<http://www.italianamericanmuseum.org/>

"'Suffering under a Great Injustice': Ansel Adams's Photographs of Japanese-American Internment at Manzanar," a photographic collection, is now available on the "American Memory" website of the **Library of Congress**. Web address: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aamhtml/>

The **American Italian Historical Association** is sponsoring an essay contest for the best essay on "Italian-American Culture: Its Genesis, Shape and Prospects." Prize money of \$5000 has been donated by Salvatore R. DiBlasi of Carlsbad, California. Essays are limited to 5000 words and must be submitted by Sept. 1, 2002. Full details and entry form are available on the AIHA web page:

<http://www.mobilto.com/aiha/>

"Ralph Fasanella's America" is an exhibit at the **New-York Historical Society**, 2 West 77nd St. at Central Park West, New York City. The paintings of Fasanella, a second-generation Italian immigrant who died in 1997, focus upon immigrant and working-class life in New York City. Through July 14, 2002.

The **Immigration History Research Center** at the University of Minnesota will sponsor a research colloquium on July 19, 2002, at noon in conference room 308, Andersen Library. "Aliens on Route: The Business of Shipping Emigrants across the North Sea during the 19th and Early 20th Centuries" will be presented by Nicholas J. Evans, doctoral candidate in history at the University of Hull, England.

During the academic years 2003/04 and 2004/05, the **Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies** at Princeton University will focus on the study of the city in history. The Center will offer a limited number of research fellowships for one or two semesters, running from September to

January and from February to June, designed for highly recommended younger scholars who have finished their dissertations as well as for senior scholars with established reputations. Inquiries and requests for Fellowship Application forms should be addressed to the Manager, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Department of History, 129 Dickinson Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544-1017, U.S.A. The deadline for applications and letters of recommendation for fellowships for 2003/2004 is December 1, 2002; the deadline for academic year 2004/2005 is December 1, 2003. Scholars who would like to offer a paper to one of the weekly Seminars are asked to send a brief description of their proposal and a current *curriculum vitae* to the Director. Detailed information and application forms are also available on the web site:

<http://www.princeton.edu/~davisctr/>

The **Immigration History Research Center** at the University of Minnesota is collecting money to fund an endowed chair in immigration history research, to be named after IHRC director Rudolph J. Vecoli. Information about the fund drive can be obtained on the web:

<http://www1.umn.edu/ihr/endw-rjv.htm>

The **Library of Congress** provides a lesson plan and on-line visual materials for "Port of Entry: Immigration," a sample lesson highlighting the immigrant experience in American life. See:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/activity/port/teacher.html>

The **National Library of Norway**, Oslo, and the **Norwegian Immigrant Museum**, Hamar, Norway, have developed an extensive website, "The Promise of America: Norwegian Migration to America and Norwegian-American History, 1825-2000." The project includes a selection of books, book excerpts, entire articles, America letters, photographs and prints, and bibliographies. Web address:

<http://www.nb.no/emigrasjon/emigration/>

**MINUTES OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD AND  
BUSINESS MEETING  
THE IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HISTORY SOCIETY  
APRIL 13, 2002, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Ron Bayor opened the meeting of the Editorial Board at 5:10 p.m. He reported there were still approximately 300 individual subscribers to the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, and raised the question of how to increase this number. There are 783 active subscriptions (318 individual, 17 student). The largest number is institutional subscriptions, and many potential individual members likely access the *Journal* in those institutional libraries. He further reported that while the number of articles submitted to the *Journal* in the last year was the same as prior years, the rejection rate was higher. Bayor noted changes to the Editorial Board, and announced that Suzanne Sinke will take over as Book Review Editor. Elliott Barkan, the current Book Review Editor, reported on continued effort in the last year to provide diversity in both the books reviewed and the reviewers.

Newsletter Editor Jim Bergquist then reported on the state of the newsletter. The current cost for the newsletter is between \$750 and \$800 per issue, but rising postal rates are likely to influence the cost in future. Furthermore, recent merger of the Balch Institute and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania could affect the mailing arrangements traditionally used to distribute the newsletter. In the coming year, Bergquist will investigate other mailing options, such as obtaining a mail permit for IEHS. Though Bergquist is now retired from Villanova, he will continue to edit the newsletter.

Alan Kraut then opened the annual business meeting, which began with Elliott Barkan's report on activities of the Program Committee. The committee prepared six proposals for submission to professional conferences. One has already been accepted for the November 2002 American Studies Association meeting in. Three proposals were submitted for Organization of American Historians annual meeting in 2003, and two for the American Historical Association's 2003 conference. Barkan raised the question whether the Society wished to continue the Program Committee. Members agreed the new IEHS website ([www.iehs.org](http://www.iehs.org)) and the use of a listserv could offer new opportunities for the identification and combination of members' papers into panel proposals, but no vote was taken to dismantle the Program Committee.

The meeting next heard from the Prize Committees. In the absence of David Gerber, Alan Kraut reported for the Saloutos Prize Committee and noted the announcement of the winner at the IEHS Annual Dinner the previous evening. The 2001 Saloutos Prize went to Gary Gerstle for his book *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. Diane Vecchio then reported for the Pozzetta Prize Committee. She noted a growing trend in recent years toward female applicants for the prize. This year, for example, of seven or eight applicants all but one were women. The winner of the 2001 Pozzetta Award was Jennifer Guglielmo for her dissertation project "Negotiating Gender, Race, and Coalition: Italian Women and Working-Class Politics in New York City,

1880-1945." Rudolph Vecoli reported on the earnings and status of the Saloutos and Pozzetta funds. Both funds are managed by the Immigration History Research Center.

Marian Smith then announced the Executive Board election results. The three new board members for the term 2002-2005 are Eric Arnesen of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Nora Faires of Western Michigan University, and Dorothee Schneider of the University of Illinois. Following the announcement of the results, Alan Kraut contributed that the anthrax scare had, unfortunately, slowed down mail service and delayed receipt of many ballots. Elliott Barkan then questioned whether the announced results should be set aside. Marian Smith outlined the extra measures that had been taken to insure that the maximum number of ballots would be included in the results, which IEHS bylaws mandate must be announced at the annual business meeting. Discussion ensued, and it was determined that the bylaws governing the voting process had been duly followed. A second count, conducted April 27, including all ballots postmarked prior to March 25 but received after April 11 confirmed the earlier results.

Diane Vecchio next delivered the Treasurer's Report. The April 2001 to April 2002 year began with a balance of \$7,412.17. Revenue during the year, generated by membership dues and annual luncheon and dinner fees amounted to \$6,594.00. Expenditures for the year totaled \$9,017.36, and included various prizes, dinners, printing, mailing, and copyright costs, as well as the cost of setting up the new IEHS website. The ending balance on hand, then, amounted to \$4,988.81.

IEHS President Alan Kraut reported society activities of the last year. The most visible achievement is the new website, and Kraut thanked Rob Garcia for his efforts in producing a quality site with useful tools and information. The site includes a directory of specialists in areas related to immigration and ethnicity. Anyone wishing to be added to this list should contact Elliott Barkan. Kraut announced that Betty Bergland, of the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, is assuming the duties of IEHS Secretary. He also noted the annual society luncheon at the 2002 American Historical Association meeting was a success, drawing 26 people. The next annual luncheon will be at the AHA meeting in Chicago.

The President's report addressed several topics raised again later in the meeting, and the minutes of discussion on each subject are arranged topically below.

Kraut reported on preparations for the 2003 Immigration and Ethnic History Society Conference. He, Elliott Barkan, and Hasia Diner drafted a preliminary proposal for the meeting, which will take place from October 31 to November 2, 2003, in New York City. The title of the conference is "Transcending Borders: Migration, Ethnicity, and Incorporation in an Age of Globalism." Co-sponsor for the 2003 conference will be New York University (NYU); that institution has already pledged \$20,000 toward the total conference cost (estimated to total \$40,000 to \$50,000). Columbia University has also pledged \$500. Later in the meeting Kraut proposed the Society donate \$3,000 for the conference. Members in attendance voted to send a positive response to the

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## Conferences and Meetings...

**FinnFest '02**, this year's version of the annual Finnish-American festival, will be held at the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota, August 7-11, 2002. The event features a wide variety of lectures, seminars and workshops on Finnish-American history, culture and life. See the web at <http://www.finnfest02.org/>

**St. Mary's University** in Halifax, Nova Scotia will hold a women's history conference in Halifax Aug. 21-24, 2002, with the theme "Irish/Canadian Connections." The conference is being organized by people from the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre of University College Dublin and the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies at St. Mary's University. Program and further information is on the web at <http://www.ucd.ie/~werrc/womenhist.html>

The **American Association for State and Local History** will hold its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, Sept. 25-28, 2002. Theme of the meeting: "The Many Faces of History." Included in the program is a panel discussion, "19th Century Historical Societies Meet Twentieth Century Ethnic Groups," chaired by James Bergquist, editor of the *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter*. Information on the web at <http://www.aaslh.org/>

The **Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies**, Maastricht, The Netherlands, will sponsor an interdisciplinary conference Oct. 16-19, 2002. Theme: "Citizens, Natures and Cultures: Transatlantic Perspectives." Proposals closed Feb. 28, 2002. Further information on the web at [http://www.cmsu.edu/mcts/mcts\\_flyer.htm](http://www.cmsu.edu/mcts/mcts_flyer.htm)

The **Oral History Association** will hold its annual conference in San Diego, California October 23-27, 2002. The theme for the 2002 conference is "Global Linkages: The Internationalization of Everyday Life." Further information about the conference on the web: <http://www.dickinson.edu/oha/>

The **American Italian Historical Association** will hold its 35th annual conference in Chicago, October 24-26, 2002. The conference is co-sponsored with Loyola University of Chicago. Theme: "The Impact of World War II on Italian Americans, 1935-present." Proposals closed May 1. For information consult the AIHA web-page at

<http://www.mobilito.com/aiha>

The **Social Science History Association** will hold its 27th annual meeting at the Royal Riverfront Hotel in St. Louis, Oct. 24-27, 2002. Theme of the conference: "International Perspectives on Social Science History: Thinking Globally, Researching Locally, Working Cooperatively." For the preliminary program and registration information, see the web page at <http://www.ssha.org/ssha2002/>

The **Southern Jewish Historical Society** will hold its annual conference in Shreveport, Louisiana, Oct. 25-27, 2002. For further information concerning proposals and registration, contact: Mark Bauman, 2517 Hartford Dr., Ellenwood GA 30294; or e-mail: [markbauman@aol.com](mailto:markbauman@aol.com)

**Network Migration in Europe** plans its third workshop on Contemporary European Migration History at the University of Erfurt in Germany, November 7-9, 2002. Topic: "New Perspectives on European and Migration History." Proposals closed May 15, 2002. Information: <http://www.network-migration.org/workshop2002/index.htm>

The **American Studies Association** will hold its annual conference in Houston, Texas, Nov. 14-17, 2002. Theme: "The Local and the Global." Program and registration information on the web at <http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/AmericanStudiesAssn/>

The **Polish Association for American Studies** will hold its annual conference in Wroclaw, Poland, Nov. 10-13, 2002. Theme: "Traveling Subjects: American Journeys in Space and Time." "We invite papers on all forms of travel to, from, and within North America, including journeys of exploration, immigration, the Middle Passage, migration, exile, tourism, time travel, and 'traveling theory.'" Deadline for submissions: September 15, 2002. Send a 250-word abstract to: [dferens@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:dferens@poczta.onet.pl). Full information on the web at <http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/users/ptsazlka/Paassite/2002conf.htm>

**Florida Atlantic University** and its departments of English and Languages and Linguistics will sponsor a conference Nov. 7-9, 2002 in Boca Raton, Florida: "Global Diasporas and the United States: Exile,

Migration, Race and Ethnicity." Proposals closed May 15, 2002. Web information: <http://www.language.fau.edu/global.htm>

The **University of Cape Town**, South Africa, and its Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies, in collaboration with the **University of Southampton**, in England, and its AHRB Parkes Centre for the Study of Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations, will sponsor a conference in Cape Town Jan. 6-8, 2003. Topic of the conference: "Port Jews: Jews and non-Jews in Cosmopolitan Maritime Trading Centres, 1650-1914." Proposals closed in February 2002. For further information, see the web page at <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~parkes/>

The **University of Nebraska** and its Center for Great Plains Studies will sponsor a conference March 27-29, 2003 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Theme: "Religion on the Great Plains." Proposals accepted until Sept. 13, 2002. Information on the web at <http://www.unl.edu/plains/events/futuresymp.html>

The "Three Cities Project" at the **University of Nottingham**, England will hold the third in a series of conferences at Nottingham April 4-5, 2003. Theme of the conference: "New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: Cultures and Representations II." "The project is an inter- and multi-disciplinary study of the iconography, spatial forms and literary and visual cultures of New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles (1870s to 1930s)." Deadline for proposals is Oct. 31, 2002. For further information consult the web-page at <http://www.3cities.org.uk/>

The **Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee** plans a conference in Philadelphia April 4-6, 2003: "Philadelphia Stories: Embracing Urban Diversity." Proposals accepted until Sept. 1, 2002. The conference will emphasize diversity and ethnicity in the Mennonite churches. Information on the web at <http://www.goshen.edu/mcarchives>

The **National Council on Public History's** 2003 Annual Meeting is to be held in Houston, Texas, April 23-27. Theme: "Beyond Boundaries: Diversity, Identity, and Public History." Proposals closed March 1, 2002. Further information on the web at: <http://www.ncph.org/>

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting...***(continued from p. 3)*

Executive Board, which will ultimately decide on the expenditure of funds.

Kraut also noted that after the 2001 conference in Minnesota, it was discovered some of the papers were not completed to the point where they were ready for publication. He suggested the call for 2003-conference papers limit submissions to finished papers that could then be combined in a special publication. Ron Bayor suggested, as an alternative, that papers be submitted to the *Journal of American Ethnic History* for publication as articles.

Members in attendance received a copy of the American Association of University Professors' Statement of Academic Principles. The Association provided the document to the Society with the request that IEHS endorse the statement of principles, and the meeting voted to do so.

Kraut announced the creation of a new task force to recruit new membership. This task force will be charged with developing a plan for attracting new members from the ranks of historians and others outside the field. Kraut will appoint the members of the new task force, and welcomes ideas from all IEHS members on how to swell the society's ranks, especially with the addition of members of ethnic and minority groups.

Finally, Rudolph Vecoli rose to ask the Society for an endorsement of his and the University of Minnesota's efforts to establish the Rudolph J. Vecoli Endowed Chair in Immigration History. This fundraising effort is important not only to honor one of the Society's founding members, but also to create an endowment that will ensure the continuation and continued independence of the Immigration History Research Center. The meeting voted to endorse the effort to build such an endowment; anyone interested in helping reach that goal should email [ihr@tc.ucm.edu](mailto:ihr@tc.ucm.edu)

All new business having been discussed, the meeting ended shortly after 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Smith  
IEHS Secretary

**A Message from the President:**

No historian has contributed more to understanding nativism in American culture and society than former IEHS President John Higham, Professor Emeritus from Johns Hopkins University. At this year's annual dinner the IEHS honored John with its first life-time achievement award. In addition to his classic, *Strangers in the Land*, Higham has authored or edited seven other volumes and hundreds of reviews. John's works, large and small, have served his colleagues well. Last autumn many of us were determined to initiate a dialogue with graduate students over what obligation a historian might have in the wake of the September 11th attack. What should they read on the issue of historians and moral positioning? Some of us turned to one of John's scholarly articles, "Beyond Consensus: The Historian as Moral Critic" in the 1962 *American Historical Review*. It remains a thoughtful essay of great richness. Thank you, John. Your works will continue to teach generations of historians.

This year's guest speaker was Demetrios G. Papademetriou, co-director of the new Washington think-tank, the Migration Policy Institute. Demetrios is well known to many of us from his work at the U.S. Department of Labor and his chairmanship of the Secretary of Labor's Immigration Policy Task Force in the early 1990s. His topic "Immigration Reform Since September 11th: Where Are We Now?" was the sobering story of how the events of 9/11 stalled meaningful immigration reform and the efforts being made to restore an atmosphere in which the push toward reform can be resumed.

The annual dinner was also the occasion for expressing our gratitude to Marian Smith, who has been IEHS Secretary for the past two years. Marian has been a delight to work with and I am most grateful for the close working relationship we enjoyed. Our new Secretary is Betty Bergland, well-known to most IEHS members as our long-time program chair. We welcome her as an officer.

Congratulations to Gary Gerstle, who won this year's Theodore Saloutos Award for the best book in immigration history for his volume, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*. The George Pozzetta Award went to graduate student Jennifer Guglielmo of the University of Minnesota for research on her dissertation,

"Negotiating Gender, Race, and Coalition: Italian Women and Working-Class Politics in New York City, 1880-1945."

The coming summer will be a time to plan some exciting future IEHS programs. I am pleased to announce that the second conference sponsored by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society will take place in New York City, October 31-November 2, 2003. The working title is "Transcending Border: Migration, Ethnicity, and Incorporation In an Age of Globalism." Thanks to Hasia Diner, New York University has agreed to co-sponsor the conference and will make a major contribution of \$20,000 to support it. Another co-sponsor is the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University, directed by Gary Okihiro. We still need to raise approximately \$30,000. President-elect Elliott Barkan and I invite members with ideas about funding and other co-sponsors to e-mail us.

We are also planning our 2003 AHA luncheon in Chicago next January. At the American Historical Association Meeting held in San Francisco last January, the IEHS had its second annual AHA luncheon. This year's speaker was Dr. Judy Yung of the University of California at Santa Cruz. Dr. Young spoke on "Unbound Voices: Chinese-American Women in San Francisco." The luncheon was well attended and lots of good conversation buzzed around the tables. Our annual luncheon at the AHA has now become a fixture on our IEHS calendar of events. I hope you will join us at the next one.

One of our greatest challenges in the year ahead is the recruitment of new members. Although we had a slight increase in membership last year, we need to reach out to younger scholars, especially to minority scholars. In the coming months I will appoint a task force to develop fresh recruitment strategies.

Please remember to send Vice President Elliott Barkan information on your areas of specialization for inclusion in the directory on our website. As program chair, Elliott is also anxious to assist in organizing panels for future AHA and OAH meetings. Keep abreast of all that is going on by periodically checking the IEHS website that we inaugurated last November: [www.iehs.org](http://www.iehs.org). Have a healthy and productive summer.

Alan Kraut  
President, IEHS

## THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD, 2001

The annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award for the outstanding book of the year in American immigration and ethnic history was made to Gary Gerstle, University of Maryland, for his book *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century* (Princeton: Princeton Univ., 2001). The award was made at the annual dinner of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society in Washington, D. C., April 12, 2002. The citation follows:

This year's Theodore Saloutos Award committee, composed of David Gerber, Camille Guerin-Gonzales, and Erika Lee, awards the 2001 Saloutos Award to Gary Gerstle of the Department of History of the University of Maryland for *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*.

In the opinion of the committee, Professor Gerstle has written a book that will have a lasting influence in defining the terms of the understanding of and debate about an abiding concern of American politics and historiography—the problem of inclusion and exclusion in defining the character of the American people.

Twentieth century American history, Gerstle informs us, was formed in numerous and significant ways out of the contestation of "two powerful and contradictory ideals": civic nationalism, which sought to overcome regionalism, weak government, and bigotry in order to create a broadly inclusive definition of the American people and a nation-state strong enough to ensure equal treatment of all of its citizens; and racial nationalism, which insisted on the hegemony of native white American males, persecuted dissent and nonconformity, and insisted on the rapid, one-way assimilation of European immigrants.

Gerstle writes for the general reader as well as for the historian. He writes, too, in the belief that a single-volume narrative synthesis, organized around the understanding of a conflict of significant ideas, may explain central features of the history of an extended period of social change and transformation in a society that has been both spectacularly diverse and often disunited.

With its democratic and syncretical aspirations, the book that emerges is a compelling work of creativity and scholarship, both readable and, perhaps above all, often surprising, as Gerstle pushes old knowledge in new directions and forces us to see what we think we know in ways that jar and transform our understanding. With its diverse cast of characters—from

the Rough Riders to the Freedom Riders, from the creators of Superman to Mario Puzo, from Frank Capra to Louis Armstrong, from Jane Addams to Angela Davis—it is broadly inclusive in its understanding of the terms in which, at many levels of our culture and politics, the debate about who we are has been maintained.

The 2001 Saloutos Award Committee commends Gary Gerstle both for his vision of the purposes of scholarship and for writing a book that is likely to have enduring significance.

### Other New Publications Noted..

Abramovitch, Ilana and Séan Galoin, eds. *Jews of Brooklyn*. Hanover, N.H.: Brandeis U., 2002.

Alanis Enciso, Fernando S., "La constitución de 1917 y la emigración de trabajadores mexicanos a Estados Unidos." *Relaciones* 22(2001): 205-227.

Aldama, Arturo J. *Disrupting Savagism: Intersecting Chicana/o, Mexican Immigrant and Native American Struggles for Self-Representation*. Durham: Duke U., 2001.

Alexander, Michael. *Jazz Age Jews*. Princeton: Princeton U., 2001.

Ang, Ien. *On Not Speaking Chinese: Living between Asia and the West*. N.Y.: Routledge, 2001.

Arias, Elizabeth. "Change in Nuptiality Patterns among Cuban Americans: Evidence of Cultural and Structural Assimilation?" *International Migration Review* 35(2001): 525-556.

Arreola, Daniel D. *Tejano South Texas: A Mexican American Cultural Province*. Austin: U. Texas, 2002.

Berry, Kate A. and Martha L. Henderson, eds. *Geographical Identities of Ethnic America: Race, Space and Place*. Reno: U. Nevada, 2002.

Besmann, Wendy Lowe. *A Separate Circle: Jewish Life in Knoxville, Tennessee*. Knoxville: U. Tenn., 2001.

Casper, Scott E. and Lucinda Long, eds. *Moving Stories: Migration and the American West, 1850-2000*. Reno: Nevada Humanities Committee, 2001.

Chang, Gordon, ed. *Asian Americans and Politics: Perspectives, Experiences Prospects*. Stanford, CA: Stanford U., 2001.

Cinotto, Simone. *Una Famiglia che mangia insieme: Cibo ed etnicità nella comunità di New York, 1920-1940*. Turin: Otto, 2001.

Coogan, Tim Pat. *Wherever Green is Worn: The Story of the Irish Diaspora*. N.Y.: Palgrave, 2001.

Cordero-Guzman, Hector R. et al., eds. *Migration, Transnationalization and Race in a Changing New York*. Philadelphia:

Temple U., 2001.

Cronin, Mike and Daryl Adair. *The Wearing of the Green: A History of St. Patrick's Day*. N.Y.: Routledge, 2002.

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## Teaching about Arab America...

(continued from p. 1)

not only in Chicago, but in most major American cities. Mary Sengstock's *The Chaldean Americans: Changing Conceptions of Ethnic Identity* (Center for Migration Studies, 1998) examines the culture and history of Iraqi Catholics in Detroit, an Aramaic-speaking community whose relation to Arabness (both in North America and in the home villages of Iraq) is hotly contested. In addition to these case studies, there are several edited volumes by Yvonne Haddad that deal with American Muslims more generally. Among her most recent compilations, edited with John Esposito, is *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2000). The title's question mark seems less provocative today than it did at the time of publication. An edited volume that combines gender, religion, and immigration issues across several Muslim American ethnic groups, with several interesting analyses of Arab Americans, is *Family and Gender among American Muslims: Issues Facing Middle Eastern Immigrants and Their Descendants*, ed. Barbara Aswad and Barbara Bilge (Temple University Press, 1996).

Several books, once popular, are now increasingly hard to locate (and clearly outdated) but worth reading nonetheless. These include *Arabs in the New World*, ed. Sameer Abraham and Nabeel Abraham (Center For Urban Studies, Wayne State University, 1983), which for many years was the best survey available; *Sojourners and Settlers: The Yemeni Immigrant Experience*, ed. Jonathan Friedlander (University of Utah Press, 1988), a superb, visually striking portrait of the Yemeni diaspora in America; Gregory Orfalea's *Before the Flames: A Quest for the History of Arab Americans* (University of Texas Press, 1988), a guided tour of Arab America, part memoir, part journalistic travelogue; *Crossing the Waters: Arabic Speaking Immigrants to the United States before 1940* (Eric Hoogland, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1987), a synoptic account of the first waves of Arab immigration to the U.S. Even older, and more revealing of historical change, is Abdo Elkholy's *The Arab Moslems in the United States: Religion and*

*Assimilation* (College and Univ. Press, 1966), a rare study of Muslim Arabs in the years before the 1965 immigration reforms. An updated presentation of this important terrain is *The Coming of the Arabic Speaking People to the United States*, ed. Adele Younis and Philip Kayal (Center for Migration Studies, 1993).

Engaging work is now being done by and about Arab Americans in cultural studies, literature, and film. A good cross sample of Arab American letters is available in *Post-Jibran: Anthology of New Arab American Writing*, ed. Munir Akash and Khaled Mattawa (Syracuse University Press, 2000). *Through and Through: Toledo Stories* (Joseph Geha, Graywolf Press, 1990) is a collection of evocative short stories about growing up Lebanese in the Rust Belt. Frances Khirallah Noble's *The Situe Stories* (Syracuse University Press, 2000) recounts a hundred years of family history, beginning in Greater Syria and ending in Los Angeles. *Children of the Roojme: A Family's Journey*, by Elmaz Abinader. (W.W. Norton, 1991) is an intricate, novelistic telling of a Lebanese family's complex attachments to "old" and "new" worlds. *Grape Leaves: A Century of Arab American Poetry*, ed. Gregory Orfalea and Sharif Elmusa (Interlink Publishing Group, 1999), an early anthology of Arab American poetry, recently reissued in paperback, is still a delight to read. A sustained critique of American mass media depictions of Arabs and Arab Americans is featured in *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*, by Jack Shaheen (Interlink Publishing Group, 2001). To date, the best film about Arab Americans is Joan Mandell's and Sally Howell's *Tales from Arab Detroit: Abu Zayd Comes to America* (ACCESS/Olive Branch Productions, 1995). The representational agendas that shaped this award-winning documentary are analyzed by three of its makers (Dwight Reynolds, Andrew Shryock, and Joan Mandell) in "The Seen and the Unseeable: Visual Culture in the Middle East," a special issue of *Visual Anthropology*, vol. 10 (1998), pp. 145-208.

Though by no means complete, this survey is enough to debunk the common assertion that there are very few studies of Arab Americans available for classroom use.

This claim, which I hear quite often from colleagues, reveals a lack of familiarity with the Arab American literature. The sources I include in this survey are seldom hard to come by, and they would enhance a broad spectrum of arts, humanities, and social science courses. In fact, one could assemble from these resources an undergraduate course (or, for that matter, a graduate seminar) that focuses entirely on the Arab American experience. The latter prospect is encouraging, given the persistent invisibility of Arabs in textbook treatments of ethnicity and immigration in the U.S., an absence that prompts students (and their teachers) to conclude that hardly any Arabs live in North America. After a century of immigration, Arab Americans are still cast as generically Other, if not inherently hostile to "the West." The language of multicultural inclusion has rarely been used to describe them, and it is used so today, in the shadow of 9/11, with ambivalence. This lingering pattern of anxiety and exclusion can be turned to the advantage of educators who want to encourage critical thought. Discussions of civil liberties are suddenly more complex when controversial cases involve Arabs; religious tolerance is a more delicate issue when the topic is Islam; the implicit assumptions of cultural superiority that pervade Western feminism emerge clearly when this tradition is questioned by Arab American feminists; and the practical and moral dilemmas that attend transnational political organization are palpable (and, for some, threatening) when this activity is undertaken to resist American foreign policy in the Middle East. As the U.S. wages a "war of terror" that will disproportionately affect Muslims and Arabs, here and abroad, it is imperative that Arab American perspectives be brought into public discourse, where they will challenge popular notions of American pluralism and give teeth once again to the polite dogma we now call "diversity." The materials needed to do this are abundantly at hand.

*Andrew Shryock is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan.*



## New Publications...

(continued from p. 7)

- Miller, Randall and Paul Cimbala. *The Union Soldier and the Northern Home Front*. NY: Fordham U., 2002.
- Moloney, Deirdre M. *American Catholic Lay Groups and Transatlantic Social Reform in the Progressive Era*. Chapel Hill: U. N. Carolina, 2002.
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- Nakasone, Ronald Y., ed. *Okinawan Diaspora*. Honolulu: U. Of Hawaii, 2002.
- Neneth, David J. *The Gypsy-American: An Ethnographic Study*. Lewiston, NY: Mellen, 2002.
- Nevis, Joseph. *Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the "Illegal Alien" and the Remaking of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary*. NY: Routledge, 2001.
- Ng, Wendy. *Japanese American Internment during World War II: A History and Reference Guide*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2002.
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- Prashad, Vijay. *Everybody was Kung-Fu Fighting: Afro-Asian Connections and the Myth of Cultural Purity*. Boston: Beacon, 2001.
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- Rath, Jan, ed. *Unravelling the Rag Trade: Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Seven World Cities*. NY: Berg, 2002.
- Reichstein, Andreas. *German Pioneers on the American Frontier: The Wagners in Texas and Illinois*. Denton: U. North Texas, 2001.
- Reynolds, Margaret C. *Plain Women: Gender and Ritual in the Old Order Brethren*. Univ. Park, PA: Penna. State U., 2001.
- Robinson, Greg. *By Order of the President: FDR and the Internment of Japanese Americans*. Cambridge: Harvard, 2001.
- Roediger, David. *Colored White: Transcending the Racial Past*. Berkeley: U. Calif., 2002.
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- Ruppert, James and John W. Bernet, eds. *Our Voices: Native Studies of Alaska and the Yukon*. Lincoln: U. Nebraska, 2001.
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- Shimabukuro, Robert S. *Born in Seattle: The Campaign for Japanese American Redress*. Seattle: U. Wash., 2001.
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- Yuh, Ji-Yeon. *Beyond the Shadow of Camp: Korean Military Brides in America*. NY: NYU, 2002.
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- Zelinsky, Wilbur. *The Enigma of Ethnicity: Another American Dilemma*. Iowa City: U. of Iowa, 2001.
- Zhao, Xiaojian. *Remaking Chinese America: Immigration, Family and Community, 1940-1965*. New Brunswick: Rutgers U., 2002.
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## PERSONALS

Suzanne Sinke (Clemson Univ.) has been named the new Book Review Editor of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. She will assume her duties during June 2002. She succeeds Elliott Barkan (California State U.-San Bernardino, who has given up the position after 17 years, in order to fulfill his duties as Vice-President and Program Committee Chairman of the IEHS.

James Bergquist (Villanova Univ.) has retired from his teaching position and is now Professor Emeritus. He will continue to edit the *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter*.

Victor Greene (Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) has been named a Senior Specialist in the Fulbright Program for the International Exchange of Scholars. Senior Specialists serve for a five-year term, advising foreign scholars in their academic specialties.

Frederick Luebke (Univ. of Nebraska) received the Western History Association's Award of Merit for 2001, in recognition of his outstanding service to the field of American history and to the association.

Mary C. Waters (Harvard Univ.) received the 2001 Thomas and Znaniecki Award for the best book on international migration from the American Sociological Association. The prize-winning book was *Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities* (Harvard Univ. Press).

Brian Gratton (Arizona State University) resigned in January as co-editor of the listserv H-ETHNIC. He went to Ecuador as a Fulbright scholar, investigating emigrants who choose between the United States and Spain.

Dominic Candeloro (Chicago Heights, Ill.) Has ended his term as editor of the listserv H-ITAM, devoted to Italian-American studies. His successor is Ben Lawton (Purdue University).

ded its Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize for the best dissertation in American Studies in 2001 to Shirley Thompson (Harvard U) for "The Passing of a People: Creoles of Color in Mid-Nineteenth Century New Orleans."

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum has hired Emily Sloat Shaw as its new education director.

Marie McAndrew (Univ. of Montreal) has received the Donner Prize of the Canadian Donner Foundation for the best book of 2001 on public policy. The book was *Immigration et diversité à l'école: Le débat québécois dans une perspective comparative* (Univ. of Montreal Press).

## FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Vice-president Elliott Barkan, chair of the IEHS program committee, has reported on activities for the past year. The committee submitted one proposal for a session at the American Studies Association (November 2002), which was accepted. It submitted three session proposals for the 2003 Organization of American Historians meeting, all of which were accepted. It has also submitted two proposals for sessions of the January 2003 American Historical Association meeting, all of which were accepted.

The committee now encourages proposals for ideas for papers and sessions for future professional meetings (late 2003 and beyond) of the ASA, OAH, AHA, Social Science History Association, and others. Graduate students, community college instructors and other professionals are invited to consult with the committee about possible programs. The committee is particularly interested in developing sessions about specific ethnic groups not so frequently covered, including non-European groups.

IEHS members with ideas or suggestions should contact the chair of the committee, Elliott Barkan (Calif. State Univ.-San Bernardino), e-mail ebarkan@csusb.edu or any of the committee members; their names and addresses can be found in the IEHS program committee web page at <http://www.iehs.org>

## HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE IEHS WEB SITE?

<http://www.iehs.org>

Want to be part of the IEHS list of Specialists on our web site? Our goal is to include a broad range of individuals with skills, expertise, and/or professional experiences related to immigration and ethnicity. It's simple to do: send Elliott Barkan an email: [ebarkan@csusb.edu](mailto:ebarkan@csusb.edu)

Include your name, your affiliation (if you have one), your contact information (telephone numbers and/or email address), and your principal specialties. (For examples, go to the web site and click on "Specialists" on the left side.) You will find a growing list of specialists in ethnicity and immigration in North America. You can add your name as well. You need not be a "star" or someone with extensive publications. We want to let the world know who our members are and what they do—teachers as well as researchers, those who are affiliated with colleges and universities and those who are not.

...Elliott Barkan

## SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

Help us establish an email mailing list of all IEHS members, so that we can reach you more efficiently (and more cheaply) for special messages. Send an e-mail to the Vice President, Elliott Barkan, and identify yourself as an IEHS member. His address is:

[ebarkan@csusb.edu](mailto:ebarkan@csusb.edu)

This list will not be made public, will not appear on the website, and will be used solely to enable the IEHS to contact its members.

## NECROLOGY

Francesco Cordasco, former professor of sociology at Montclair State College and scholar of Italian-American life, died October 4, 2001 at Teaneck, N.J. at the age of 80. He edited and authored many books, including *Italians: Social Backgrounds of an Immigrant Group* (1974) and *Dictionary of American Immigration History* (1990).

The American Studies Association awar-

**IHS News Notes...****THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD**

Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award is December 31, 2002. To be eligible, a book must be copyrighted 2002. A book may be nominated by the author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. Inquiries and nominations should be submitted to the chair of the Saloutos Prize Committee, Prof. Matthew Jacobson, Dept. of American Studies, Yale University, HGS 233, 320 York St., New Haven, CT 06520. E-mail: [matthew.jacobson@yale.edu](mailto:matthew.jacobson@yale.edu)

Copies of the book must be received by all three members of the committee by Dec. 31, 2002. Send books to Prof. Jacobson at the address above; and also to: Prof. Alison Games, Dept. of History, ICC 600, Georgetown Univ., Washington, DC 20057-1035; and Prof. Judy Yung, American Studies Dept., Oakes Faculty Services, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

**NEW IEHS OFFICERS**

In the annual IEHS election, the following persons were elected to the Executive Board of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society for the term 2002-2005: Eric Arnesen (Univ. of Ill. at Chicago), Nora Faires (Western Michigan Univ.), and Dorothee Schneider (Univ. of Ill. at Champaign).

Betty Bergland (Univ. Of Wisconsin-River Falls) has been appointed secretary of the IEHS, and took office at the end of the annual meeting in April. She succeeds Marian Smith (Immigration and Naturalization Service), who resigned because of increased responsibilities at the INS.

**GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD**

At the annual dinner of the IEHS on April 12 in Washington, the Immigration and Ethnic History Society named Jennifer Guglielmo, graduate student at the University of Minnesota, as the recipient of the seventh annual George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award. Ms. Guglielmo's dissertation project is "Negotiating Gender, Race, and Coalition: Italian Women and Working-Class Politics in New York City, 1880-1914."

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces competition for the 2002 George E. Pozzetta Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying examinations by Dec. 1, 2002, and whose thesis focuses on American immigration, emigration, or ethnic history. The award provides \$750 for expenses to be incurred in researching the dissertation. Applicants must submit a 3-5 page descriptive proposal in English, discussing the significance of the work, the methodology, sources, and collections to be consulted. Also included must be a proposed budget, a brief *curriculum vitae*, and a supporting letter from the major advisor. All materials must be received by each committee member by Dec. 15, 2002, which is the submission deadline. Send materials in hardcopy (no FAXes accepted) to: Barbara M. Posadas, Dept. of History, Northern Illinois Univ., DeKalb, IL 60115, chair of the committee; Sue Fawn Chung, PO Box 455020, Dept. of History, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV 89154-5020; and Cindy Hahamovitch, Dept. of History, College of William & Mary, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795. Inquiries to Prof. Posadas at: [bposadas@niu.edu](mailto:bposadas@niu.edu)

**Activities Report for the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter**

Mail your information for the next Newsletter to:

James M. Bergquist, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova PA 19085-1699  
or FAX a copy to (610) 519-4450 or send information via E-Mail to: [James.Bergquist@villanova.edu](mailto:James.Bergquist@villanova.edu)  
Your name and affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

New Publications? Awards? Conferences Planned? Research Projects? Give us full details in the space below. Attach additional sheet for more information. Return by October 1, 2002.

## THE IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HISTORY SOCIETY

...was founded in 1965 as the Immigration History Group. It was chartered in 1972 as the Immigration History Society. In 1998 the Society, which had traditionally dealt with ethnicity as well as immigration, changed its name to the Immigration and Ethnic History Society.

The purpose of the Society is to promote the study of the history of immigration to the United States and Canada from all parts of the world, including studies of the background of emigration in the countries of origin; to promote the study of ethnic groups in the United States, including regional groups, native Americans and forced immigrants; to promote understanding of the processes of acculturation and of conflict; to furnish through the *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter* information as to research, organizations, meetings and publications in the field of immigrant history; to help organize sessions on immigration and ethnicity at meetings of learned societies; and generally to serve the field of immigration-ethnic history with special reference to professional scholarship.

### MEMBERSHIP

...in the Society includes subscriptions to the quarterly *Journal of American Ethnic History* and the semiannual *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter*. Dues for individuals: one year, \$30; 2 years, \$55; 3 years, \$75. Dues for institutions: one year, \$100; 2 years, \$194; 3 years, \$268. Students: 1 year, \$15. For domestic first-class mail, add \$32 per year. For all subscriptions outside U.S.A. and Canada, add \$30. Membership dues should be sent to *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, 35 Berrue Circle, Piscataway NJ 08854-8042.

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Inquiries about the Society should be directed to the appropriate officer. This newsletter was edited with additional assistance and support from the staff of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Newsletter submissions and questions about editorial matters should be sent to the newsletter editor at the address above. Requests for back issues should be sent to the editor, at the address above; to purchase back issues, send \$2.00 per copy (by check made out to Villanova University).

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