

PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

George Avakian

Officially recognized as a Living Legend Giant of Jazz, American record producer George Avakian is best known for his work with Columbia Records producing the albums of Miles Davis and other notable musicians, such as Louis Armstrong and Johnny Mathis. In 1962, he organized Benny Goodman's successful tour of the USSR. Born to Armenian parents in Russia in 1919 in the immediate aftermath of the Russian Revolution, George attended Yale University where he became an avid fan and collector of jazz music. While still at Yale he discovered some unissued Louis Armstrong masters from his Hot Five and Hot Seven period and was responsible for the first reissues Columbia put out around 1940. He is a founding officer of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (presenters of the Grammy Awards). Among his many awards are a Knighthood from the Knights of Malta, the Order of Lenin (highest award of the former USSR), and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement.

Krishen Mehta

Engaged with Human Rights Watch (HRW) since 2007, Krishen Mehta helped with the launch of HRW's offices in Japan in 2009 and in India in 2010. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors in Japan, and on their Asia Advisory Council in New York. He is also involved with the Carnegie Council's Ethics in International Policy, serving as an Advisor. He has written on the subject of development, poverty, and illicit flows, and spoken at various forums including the Carnegie Council and the Ethical Society of New York. He is on the Adjunct Faculty of American University in Washington, DC, oversees a Capstone project at Columbia University in New York, and is a guest lecturer at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston in their Graduate Management in Arts program.

Marlene Saunders

A three-time Emmy Award-winning correspondent, writer, producer, and broadcast news executive, Marlene Saunders began her broadcast journalism career in 1955 working for Mike Wallace of CBS, as his local producer. She is a female pioneer in broadcasting and has a number of firsts to her credit: the first woman to cover the Vietnam war from the field; the first woman anchor of a nightly newscast for a major network; and eventually the first woman vice president and director of documentaries at ABC News, producing a number of award-winning documentaries for the network. In 1978, she joined CBS News as a correspondent and documentary maker. She has co-authored a book with Marcia Rock about women in television news: *Waiting for Prime Time*.

Harold D. Weaver

Dr. Harold D. Weaver is the Principal Curator of The BlackFilm Project, The ChinaFilm Project, and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Du Bois Research Institute, Harvard University. Harold Weaver has taught, lectured, and published on Third-World films in several countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He has been active on the juries of several film festivals and has organized national film retrospectives in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. His current focus is using films to enhance cross-cultural understanding and respect for the U.S., China, Africa, and the African Diaspora through The BlackFilm Project and The ChinaFilm Project.

Allison Blakely

An award-winning academic historian teaching at Boston University since 2011, Dr. Allison Blakely taught for thirty years at Howard University. A graduate from the University of Oregon, and from the University of California, Berkeley, with an MA and PhD, he is the author of *Blacks in the Dutch World: Racial Imagery and Modernization* (Indiana University Press, 1994); *Russia and the Negro: Blacks in Russian History and Thought* (Howard University Press, 1986 - a winner of an American Book Award in 1988), several articles on Russian populism, and others on various European aspects of the Black Diaspora. His interest in history has centered on comparative populism and on the historical evolution of color prejudice. He is the immediate past President of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (2006-2009), a leading advocate for excellence in the liberal arts and sciences embracing the principles of freedom of inquiry and liberty of thought and expression, and serves on the Editorial Board of its journal, *The American Scholar*.

Pemon Rami

Pemon Rami has been involved in the development of television productions, films, music concerts, documentaries, plays and multimedia for over 40 years. From 1968-1970, Rami served as Associate Director of Ted Ward's Southside Center for the Performing Arts. From 1971-1972, he was director of the Kuumba Workshop, and from 1973-1980, he was Founding Artistic/Managing Director of the Lamont Zeno Theatre. Rami also served as Managing/Artistic Director for the Phoenix Black Theatre Troupe and General Manager for Marla Gibbs' Crossroads National Education and Entertainment Complex in Los Angeles. The first African-American film casting director in Chicago, Rami provided talent for the classic feature films and television movies, *Blues Brothers*, *Mahogany*, *Cooley High*, *Uptown Saturday Night*, etc. Pemon has produced numerous documentaries and short films in addition to the feature film *Of Boys and Men*, released by Warner Brothers Home Video. In May 2011, Pemon Rami joined the DuSable Museum as Director Educational Services and Public Programs.

Vladimir Alexandrov

An award-winning professor and chair of the Slavic Languages and Literature department at Yale, Vladimir Alexandrov received his doctorate in comparative literature from Princeton and previously taught at Harvard and Princeton. His publications include

Andrei Bely: The Major Symbolist Fiction and *Nabokov's Otherworld*. He also was editor of *The Garland Companion to Vladimir Nabokov* and has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters. He was associate editor of the *Russian Review* (1982–86) and has served on the editorial board of *Nabokov Studies* and *Yale Russian and East European Publications*. He currently serves on the Advisory Council of the *Slavic and East European Journal*. Dr. Vladimir Alexandrov is the recipient of fellowships from the Humanities. He is an author of a forthcoming book *The Black Russian*.

William Jelani Cobb

Dr. William Jelani Cobb is an Associate Professor of History at Spelman College. He specializes in post-Civil War African American history, 20th century American politics and the history of the Cold War. He served as a delegate and historian for the 5th Congressional District at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. He is a recipient of fellowships from the Fulbright and Ford Foundations. Jelani Cobb is also the author of *To The Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic* (NYU Press 2007) which was a finalist for the National Award for Arts Writing. His collection *The Devil & Dave Chappelle and Other Essays* (Thunder's Mouth Press) was also published in 2007. He is editor of *The Essential Harold Cruse: A Reader*, which was listed as a 2002 Notable Book of The Year by Black Issues Book Review. Dr. Jelani Cobb has two forthcoming books: *In Our Lifetimes: Barack Obama* and the *New Black America* and a scholarly monograph titled *Antidote to Revolution: African American Anticommunism and the Struggle for Civil Rights, 1931-1957*. He has also been a featured commentator on National Public Radio, CNN, Al-Jazeera, CBS News and a number of other national broadcast outlets.

Joy Gleason Carew

The author of *Blacks, Reds, and Russians: Sojourners in Search of the Soviet Promise* (Rutgers University Press, 2008), Dr. Joy Gleason Carew is the resident linguist and an Associate Professor in the Department of Pan-African Studies at the University of Louisville. She is also the Associate Director of the UofL's International Center. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, but developed her love of Russian and Russian culture at The Putney School in Vermont in the early 1960s. She holds degrees from Case Western Reserve University (B.A., Russian, French), the University of Illinois (M.A., Comparative Literature- Russian and French), Cornell University (M.A., Linguistics – Slavic and Romance), and the Illinois Institute of Technology (Ph.D., Linguistics). She has been teaching in academia for over forty years. Having designed and led numerous study abroad programs for her students and professionals from various backgrounds, she remains committed to the power of people-to-people diplomacy.

Pamela Newkirk

An award-winning journalist, fellow at the Nation Institute, and Professor of Journalism at New York University, Pamela Newkirk is the author of *Within the Veil: Black*

Journalists, White Media which won the 2001 National Press Club Award for media criticism. She also edited *A Love No Less: More Than Two Centuries of African-American Letters*. Her articles on African American art and culture have appeared in many distinguished journals, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *The Nation* and *Andrews*. Pamela was also part of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News at *New York Newsday* in 1992 and won the New York Association of Black Journalists International Reporting Prize in 1990.

Maxim Matusevich

Maxim Matusevich is an Associate Professor of Global History at Seton Hall University where he also directs the Russian and East European Studies Program. Pr. Matusevich is the author of *No Easy Row for a Russian Hoe: Ideology and Pragmatism in Nigerian-Soviet Relations, 1960-1991* (Africa World Press, 2003) and editor of *Africa in Russia, Russia in Africa: Three Centuries of Encounters* (Africa World Press, 2007). He has published extensively on the history of Russian-African ties and the history of African-American travel in the Soviet Union. Pr. Matusevich has been awarded a number of prestigious grants and research fellowships, including the Fulbright Grant, the National Endowment for Humanities Fellowship, the Kennan Institute residential fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Center, the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute residential fellowship (Harvard University), and others. His current research focuses on the history of socialist mobility during the Cold War as well as the history of African-American political and cultural engagement with the Soviet Union.

Meredith Roman

An award-winning Associate Professor of history at the State University of New York (SUNY) The College at Brockport, and with a PhD in Comparative Black History Studies from Michigan State University, Dr. Meredith Roman has written numerous articles on comparative Russian and African American history published in the *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics*, *International Labor and Working-Class History*, *Race & Class*, and *Critique: A Journal of Socialist Theory*. Her book *Opposing Jim Crow: African Americans and the Soviet Indictment of US Racism, 1928- 1937*, was published in July 2012. She has given many presentations in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and in 2007 on the topic of Anti-Empire, Anti-Racism: Representations of the Soviet Union as a Superior Society during the Interwar Era. Among her other publications are *Racism in a 'Raceless' Society: Racial Violence at the Stalingrad Giant of Socialist Industry and Images of Soviet Racial Equality, August 1930*, and an essay entitled *Robert Robinson: Celebrity Worker in the USSR*.

Stanley Aronowitz

A life-long political and social activist, Stanley Aronowitz addressed conferences of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in the 1960s and was involved with the

March on Washington which led to the enactment of the Voting Rights and Civil Rights Acts. He directed the planning and development of the first post-war public experimental high school in East Harlem and has been involved in educational programs since the early 70s. He has taught at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York since 1983, where he is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Urban Education. He received his B.A. at the New School in 1968 and his Ph.D from the Union Graduate School in 1975. He studies labor, social movements, science and technology, education, social theory and cultural studies and is director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Technology and Work at the Graduate Center. He is author or editor of twenty-five books including: *Against Schooling: For an Education that Matters* (2008); *Left Turn: Forging a New Political Future* (2006); *Just Around Corner* (2005); *How Class Works* (2003); *The Last Good Job in America* (2001); *The Knowledge Factory* (2000); *The Jobless Future* (1994, with William DiFazio); and *False Promises: The Shaping of American Working Class Consciousness* (1973, 1992).

Romy Taylor

A graduate of University College, Berkeley, with a PhD from the University of Southern California, Romy Taylor is currently writing a book which explores the experiences of African-American men and women who immigrated to the Soviet Union in the 1930s. A recipient of Fulbright, National Endowment for the Humanities, Kennan Institute and Social Science Research Council grants, she has most recently taught courses on contemporary Russia, Russian language, literature, women's studies and Kazakhstan as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Russian and Slavic Studies at the University of Arizona.

Natalia Krylova

Natalia Krylova who has a Ph.D. in history, works as a Chief Scientist at the Africa Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS.) She has published over 250 works on Afro-Russian families. She authored numerous sociological research on problems encountered by Afro-European mixed marriages who are currently living in Africa, Asia, Russia, and Europe. Natalia also has published her articles in several periodicals including *The East*, *The Ethnography Review*, *State and Law*, *Asia and Africa Today*, etc. and appeared in Russian and foreign mass media. She is a member of various organizations related to Russian-African issues such as *World Congress of Russian Women* and the *Association of Russian Experts on Africa*. She is also one of the founders of the *Intermix World* international movement (London, UK.)

Juliane Furst

German-born historian Juliane Furst studied law and history at the University of Heidelberg prior to receiving her B.A. in Modern History at Christ Church, University of Oxford. She received her Masters in Russian and Post-Soviet Studies and her Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, where her thesis was titled *Stalin's Last Genera-*

tion – Youth, State and Komsomol 1945-53. Author of numerous articles and books on Soviet youth, culture and politics, she has participated and organized international conferences, workshops and seminars on Soviet Youth. Her books *Stalin's Last Generation: Soviet Post-War Youth, Emergence of Mature Socialism* and *Late Stalinist Russia: Society between Reconstruction and Reinvention* were published in England. Furst is currently a visiting scholar at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, New York.

Dr. Rashidah Ismaili AbuBakr

Dr. Rashidah Ismaili AbuBakr is a writer of short stories, plays and poetry. Originally from West Africa, Dr. AbuBakr has taught French and English Speaking African Writers, Literature of the African Diaspora and has taught the Harlem Renaissance movement. She was a part of the Black Arts Movement of the 60s in New York where she resides. She is an art and culture critic and has published essays on Langston Hughes and Mariama Ba. Her home, *Salon d'Afrique* is a meeting place of art and culture to further communication with the artistic and intellectual community of Harlem. Additionally, her apartment gallery, *Galleria Africa*, has focused on younger artists of Africa. Dr. AbuBakr was Associate Director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program at Pratt Institute and since her retirement following thirty-two years in higher education, she writes full time and conducts workshops, writing seminars, and lectures. The publication of her first collection of short stories is expected this fall.

Supporting Advisory Institutions:

The DuSable Museum of African-American History

Founded in 1961 by teacher and art historian Dr. Margaret Burroughs and her husband Charles, a son of Williana Burroughs and other leading Chicago citizens, the DuSable Museum is the oldest independent institutions of its kind in the United States developed to preserve and interpret the experiences and achievements of people of African descent. The museum is dedicated to the collection, documentation, preservation and study of the history and culture of Africans and African Americans and is located in the historic Hyde Park area of Chicago where art, history and culture are united.

The National Jazz Museum, Harlem

The National Jazz Museum in Harlem, New York, is dedicated to maintaining the spirit of jazz culture, past and present. Apart from New Orleans, no community has nurtured jazz more than Harlem. Legends such as Duke Ellington, Benny Carter, Thelonious Mark, John Coltrane, Billie Holiday and others have enlivened the streets with their unique sounds. The museum's Executive Director, Loren Schoenberg, is a tenor saxophonist, jazz historian, and two-time Grammy Award winner.

The Andrei Sakharov Foundation

The Andrei Sakharov Foundation, USA is dedicated to the preservation of the memory of Andrei Sakharov, the promotion of his ideas, and the defense of human rights. The Andrei Sakharov Archives and Center at Harvard University was organized in 1993 and serves as a base for research and education on the history of the Soviet Union, the current situation in Russia, and human rights. In May 1991, the Sakharov Foundation sponsored several international congresses dedicated to Sakharov's memory, a series of workshops on Russian nuclear reactors and the problems and prospects of establishing the Rule of Law in Russia, and supported missions to Nagorny- Karabakh and Ingushetia to facilitate peaceful settlement of ethnic conflicts. In collaboration with Harvard University, the Sakharov Foundation has helped create the International Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus,) assisted the resettlement of refugees in the successor states of the former Soviet Union, and defended the rights of scientists persecuted for their political opinions. Until her death, well-known human rights activist and Soviet dissident Elena Bonner served as chair of The Andrei Sakharov Foundation, USA and Russia. The current President is Alexey Semyonov.