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Dear AASLH Award of Merit Committee,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to evaluate *A Picture History of New Bedford, Volume Two, 1925-1980*, the second in a series of three volumes developed by Spinner Publications, for an Award of Merit. Specializing in the history and sociology of immigration, race and ethnicity in the United States with particular expertise on immigrants of African descent and the ethnic history of Massachusetts, I have written extensively on the Cape Verdean-American experience, much of which has transpired in the South Coast region, particularly New Bedford, the historical hub of the Cape Verdean community. I also have much experience with the methodology of oral history, having conducted fieldwork interviews as a key component of almost all of my research projects, as well as provided training over the years in gathering oral history through workshops for students and community members. Thus, I am well positioned to assess the efficacy of both the content and the approach of this book. In addition to my scholarly background, I have resided in the greater New Bedford area myself for nearly four decades and, consequently, have a personal window of experience through which to peer as I have conducted my review.

A Picture History of New Bedford, Vol II represents an impressive example of the complementary use of photographic evidence, archival research and first-person voices to tell local history that has been the hallmark of Spinner Publications since its inception. Highly accessible and such an inviting read, I was not at all surprised to learn that it has been a best seller for Spinner. Furthermore, the potential audience includes numbers of people still alive who can remember the decades covered in the volume and, thus, have the chance to gain insight into and a context for their own individual life histories.

The best and most meaningful local history situates the events and developments at a particular geographic site within broader regional, national or global circumstances. This book's treatment of New Bedford's history exemplifies this approach well, in almost every section, demonstrating how the local reflects or departs from the larger, unfolding historical context. For example, the material on the textile strike of 1928 (pp. 10-15) features all the central elements that make *A Picture History* such a success. The

piece richly combines oral history interviews and documentary evidence, including not only vivid photographs but lyrics from the strike songs and headlines from newspaper accounts, to present the devastating arc of this labor dispute from the point of view of New Bedford's striking workers and their families but with an eye to signaling the reader that this incident marked the beginning of the demise of a once burgeoning regional textile industry and foreshadowed the impending economic collapse of the Great Depression that gripped the entire nation.

I was also struck by the originality of much of the material presented on these pages. For instance, although the rise and fall of New Bedford's textile mills has been addressed in other publications, little has been written about the transition from textile to apparel manufacturing and the needle trades after World War II and through the 1970s. *A Picture History* notably adds to the historical record by devoting several pages to recounting the largely untold story of how industry leaders drew apparel companies from New York and Pennsylvania to New Bedford, effectively revitalizing the city's factory employment base, especially for women (pp. 172-173; 306-307). And while others have discussed the history and impact of the Cape Verdean diaspora on the music scene in New Bedford (including myself in *Between Race and Ethnicity* and on *Afropop Worldwide*), to my knowledge, no one had yet examined the contribution of legendary Cape Verdean jazz musician Paul Gonsalves until this volume (p. 242). Indeed, overall, the decision to give considerable attention throughout the book to tracing the ways that music has shaped New Bedford's history stands as one of this publication's greatest strengths. The inclusion of the history of breweries (p.180), luncheonettes (pp. 204-207) and bakeries (pp. 210-213) as well as the section on scrap collection as part of the World War II homefront salvage campaign, among other topics, also represent new contributions to local knowledge that are most welcome additions to the literature on the city.

Making a diverse array of actors the subjects of the history revealed here is so intrinsic to the fabric of this endeavor that it would not do the book justice to single out one or two instances of inclusivity. It's on every page and not by way of a formulaic "add and stir" methodology. Women and men from a wide variety of ethno-racial backgrounds, working at all rungs of the socio-economic ladder, play leading roles in this telling of New Bedford's narrative past, including the accounts of their pivotal participation in the city's contested history from labor activism to anti-war and Civil Rights protests.

Finally, I was delighted by the choice of the dynamic 1979 photograph of runners at the start line of the New Bedford Half Marathon as the last illustration in the book – getting ready and set to race into the future. As with so much of the compelling text found in *A Picture History*, the authors and editors linked past and present, comparing the winning

times of the runners that year to where they would have placed if they had competed in the 2015 edition of the race. This splendid final image of diverse multitudes on the move also offers the perfect segue to *A Picture History of New Bedford, Volume Three, 1980-Present*, now in progress at Spinner and after devouring Volume Two, a publication that more than ever, I eagerly await.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Halter". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Marilyn Halter
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Academic Positions

- Professor of History and American Studies, Boston University, 2003-2016
- Research Associate, Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, Boston University, 1990-2016
- Director of Graduate Studies, American and New England Studies Program, Boston University, 2010-2014
- Director, American and New England Studies Program, Boston University, 2004-2007
- Associate Professor of History, Boston University, 1996-2003
- Assistant Professor of History, Boston University, 1990-1996
- Assistant Professor of History, Wellesley College, 1988-1990
- Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, Boston College, 1987-1988
- Visiting Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, 1985-1987

Education

- Boston University Graduate School—Ph.D. American and New England Studies, 1986
- Harvard Graduate School of Education—Ed.M, 1972
- Brandeis University—A.B. *magna cum laude*, Honors in American Studies, 1971

Publications

Books

- *African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America* with Violet Showers Johnson (New York: NYU Press, 2014).
- *What's New about the "New" Immigration? Traditions and Transformations in the United States since 1965*, co-edited with Marilynn Johnson, Katheryn Viens and Conrad Wright (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).
- *Shopping for Identity: The Marketing of Ethnicity* (New York: Schocken Books, 2000; Paperback, 2002).
- *New Migrants in the Marketplace: Boston's Ethnic Entrepreneurs*, editor (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1995).
- *Between Race and Ethnicity: Cape Verdean American Immigrants, 1860-1965* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1993).
- *The Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Cape Verde* with Richard Lobban (Metuchen, N. J.: Scarecrow Press, 1988).

Selected Articles and Book Chapters

- "Mainstreaming Multiethnic America: Commerce and Culture in the New Millennium," in *Selling Ethnicity and Race: Consumerism and Representations in Twenty-First Century America*, eds. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramirez, Frank Usbeck, Anne Grob and Maria Lippold, *Mosaic* Vol. 57, (Trier, Germany: WVT Wissenschaftlicher Verlag 2015): 29-46.
- "Introduction" with Christopher Capozzola, in *What's New about the "New" Immigration? Traditions and Transformations in the United States since 1965*, eds. Marilyn Halter, Marilynn Johnson, Katheryn Viens and Conrad Wright (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014): 1-19.

- “Cape Verdeans, 1870-1940,” and “Cape Verdeans, 1940-2010,” in *Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration*, Vol. I and II, ed. Elliott Barkan (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013): 269 & 805
- “Young, Gifted and West African: Transnational Migrants Growing Up in America,” with Violet M. Showers Johnson, in *Helping Young Refugees and Immigrants Succeed*, eds. Gerald Holton and Gerhard Sonnert (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010): 113-127
- “Diasporic Generations: Distinctions of Race, Nationality and Identity in the Cape Verdean Community, Past and Present,” in *Community, Culture and the Makings of Identity: Portuguese-Americans along the Eastern Seaboard*, eds. Kimberly DaCosta Holton & Andrea Klimt (Dartmouth, Massachusetts: Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, 2009): 525-553
- “Cape Verdeans in the United States,” in *Transnational Archipelago: Perspectives on Cape Verdean Migration and Diaspora*, eds. Luís Batalha and Jorgen Carling (Amsterdam, NL: Amsterdam University Press, 2008): 35-46.
- “West Africans,” in *The New Americans: A Handbook to Immigration Since 1965*, eds. Mary Waters and Reed Ueda (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007): 283-294.
- “Tourists ‘R Us: Immigrants, Ethnic Tourism, and the Marketing of Metropolitan Boston,” in *Tourism, Ethnic Diversity and the City*, ed. Jan Rath (London: Routledge, 2006): 199-215.
- “Ethnic and Racial Identity,” in *A Companion to American Immigration History*, ed. Reed Ueda (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2006).

Select Service to the Profession

- General Series Editor, *New England in the World*, University of New Hampshire Press, 2012-2016.
- Consulting Scholar, “The Changing Immigrant Experience in Massachusetts, 1965-2015,” NEH MASS Humanities grant, 2016.
- Co-Chair, “Boston Immigration and Urban History Seminar” an on-going series in conjunction with the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1998-2016.
- Plenary Speaker, “Change and Continuity in Post-1965 Migration: New Perspectives and Research,” Conference on Immigrant America: New Immigration Histories from 1965 to 2015, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, October 23, 2015.
- Invited Speaker, “African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America,” Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, Atlanta, GA, September 24, 2015.
- Invited Speaker, “Capturing a Niche: The West African Enclave Economy.” Entrepreneurship in Africa Seminar, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 3, 2015.
- Invited Speaker, “African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America,” Africana Studies Bookshelf Chat, Conversations on Transnational Blackness, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, November 6, 2014.
- Project Scholar, Organization of American Historians and National Park Service, Lowell Historical National Park, Lowell, MA, August 12-13, 2014.
- Invited Speaker, “Between Race and Ethnicity: The History of Cape Verdeans in Massachusetts,” Teaching American History Summer Institute, New Bedford, MA, August 8, 2013.
- Senior Consultant and Project Historian, “The Immigrant Experience,” OASIS Institute National Education Project for Older Adults, 2005-2009.
- Program Guide, “Diaspora Encounters: *Kriolu* in New England, The Cape Verdean-American Story,” *Afropop Worldwide*, Hip Deep public radio series, 2008-2009.