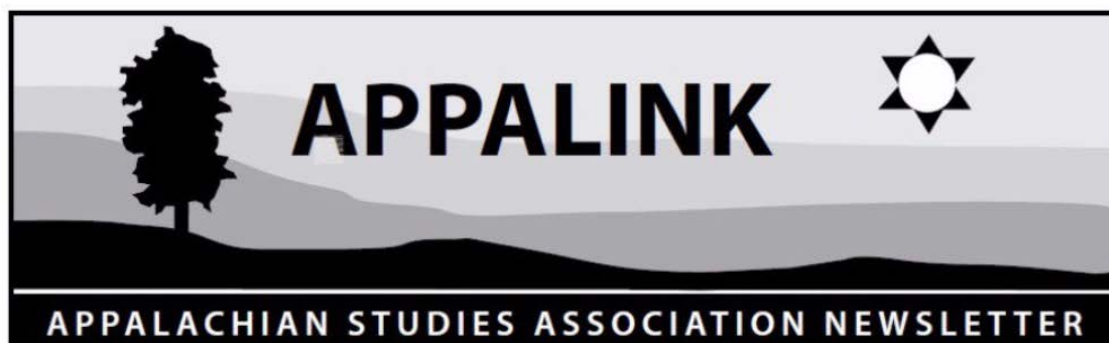


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Spring 2017

Volume 40, Number 2

President's Message

The 40th ASA conference, *Extreme Appalachia!*, is coming up quickly. You won't want to miss it! Anita Puckett, Emily Satterwhite and their colleagues have put together a feast for our minds, hearts, eyes and ears. If you have perused the preliminary program or the brief description in the call for proposals, you know that this conference is packed with provocative and relevant presentations and workshops, as well as enriching exhibits, films and entertainment. First course: Thursday's pre-conference on grassroots coalition training, presented by Virginia Organizing and sponsored by Y'ALL; and it goes on from there. With a record number of proposals resulting in a full schedule of conference sessions, the challenge will be deciding where and how to partake of the feast. I invite you to come for all four days and to invite your friends and colleagues to join you.

The conference theme this year references impassioned commitments, which I think is an apt

I also want to call your attention to two things in this issue of Appalink: the slate of excellent nominees for ASA offices and a few proposed changes to our bylaws. Please review both and let your voice be heard by casting your votes. Voting will take place online for officers, and in person at the conference's members' meeting for the proposed changes to the bylaws. You will certainly want to attend Saturday's members' meeting and lunch to learn more about the activities of the organization and to welcome our newly elected officers.

Finally, I want to share with you my appreciation for ASA's steering committee and staff and their commitment to ongoing dialogue and careful consideration of the needs of the organization and its members. The steering committee, along with Mary and Chris, seem to be in constant conversation as questions and issues arise, always focusing on how to best serve the membership with sensitivity to its needs and to ever-widening inclusion. We are also in the process of re-examining ASA's strategic

phrase for characterizing the ties that bind this community of scholars, activists, artists, students, teachers, and community members who comprise ASA. Now, more than ever, we need that commitment to protect and nurture our communities, individuals, and the land that make up Appalachia. One commitment ASA has made, toward justice and equity, will be honored through a workshop sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee on Friday morning. Highlander's Kierra Sims and Samir Rohlin Hazboun will present "Building Transformative Communities and Collective People Power," focused on the role of race, class, and privilege in a time of economic transition for the region. This is but one of the many offerings at the conference that promise to help us develop our understanding and actualize our commitments to the region and its people.

Hopefully, one of our impassioned commitments is to nurturing, active engagement with, and growing ASA itself. This year, serving as president, I have come to appreciate more fully the work of our ASA committees and members. The work is ongoing, it is important, and its fruit speaks to the dedication of our membership. I urge each of our members to consider how you might become more deeply engaged in ASA. I hope you will take a moment at the conference to speak to a member of the steering committee to discuss your interests and passions and how you might connect in a new way or a deeper way to the work of the organization.

plan, as well as considering how to move the organization forward with a financial base that is less dependent on conference revenue for its sustainability. All this, of course, is dependent on the continued engagement of our committed members. I hope to be able to get to know many more of you at the conference this year.

See you in Blacksburg!

Debbie Zorn, President
(Debbie.Zorn@uc.edu)

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Appalachian Studies Association is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, educators, practitioners, grassroots activists, students, individuals, groups and institutions. Our mission is driven by our commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally, and internationally.

ExTREM Appalachia!
th

40 Annual Appalachian Studies Conference
March 9-12, 2017
Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

REMINDERS regarding Extreme Appalachia!

Please remember that the conference will begin early this year, with full days on Friday and Saturday and programming continuing through lunch - and possibly beyond - on Sunday.

BEFORE YOU COME (please read!)

- Register! Prices go up after **February 23**.
- Planning to use the Internet for your presentation? Assure your access to Wi-Fi during the conference via Eduroam (sign up at your home institution) or, **BEFORE February 15**, Virginia Tech sponsored Wi-Fi (see preliminary program).
- Be sure you **bring your parking pass** (enclosed in your preliminary program) for weekday parking, and pay close attention to parking and shuttle information in the preliminary program.
- Pack your personal laptop computer **and an adapter** (HDMI to VGA or VGA to HDMI) if you wish to use a projector during your presentation.

Optional activities

- Make reservations for the Grassroots Coalition Training, [here](#).
- Sign up **BEFORE March 1** to take advantage of the following opportunities by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/ASAsignups>.
 - Free lunch for the “Building Transformative Communities” workshop, which will begin during Concurrent Session 2 and continue through lunch on Friday, March 10).
 - Field trips to ecological and historic sites (which may be canceled if we don’t have enough pre-registrations).
 - Y’ALL mentoring breakfasts, Friday, 9:00-10:15am (Concurrent Session 1).
- **AFTER February 12**, download the **2017 conference app** onto your mobile device (See details in preliminary program).
- Reserve your tickets for Higher Ground 6: Life is Like a Vapor. Seating is limited, so reserve tickets soon.
- If you registered early, be sure you purchased meal tickets for our awards ceremony, emceed by musician Tyler Hughes, our annual members meeting, and our Sunday lunch featuring “Reflections on the State of the Appalachian Studies Conference” from an artist, an activist, a senior scholar, and a rising star. The deadline to order meals is March 2.

Attendee Needs

Get your scholarship application turned in by **February 9**.

- For information regarding child care options, contact Emily Satterwhite at satterwhite@vt.edu. *Disclaimer: Information about housing and childcare options is provided for your convenience by the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA). ASA neither endorses or recommends any of these options. Members are solely responsible for making all housing and/or childcare arrangements and for determining which service/facility to use.*
- For information on Professional Development Points for Virginia K-12 teachers or Professional Development Graduate Credit, contact Emily Satterwhite at satterwhite@vt.edu.

Officer Nominations

[CLICK HERE TO VOTE!](#)

Two At-Large Members (2017-2021) Vote for Two

Alexander Gibson is the executive director of Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky. Alex graduated from Berea in 2008 with a BA in Philosophy and earned his JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2012. Alex also holds a certificate in comparative law and in Thai and Southeast Asian Studies. After college, he received the Watson Fellowship, which allowed him to travel and study for a year in areas of conflict around the world. Before joining Appalshop, he practiced law in Louisville, Kentucky and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. While attending law school, Alex provided pro bono legal services to asylum seekers from central and west Africa and was part of a delegation sent to Mombasa to teach constitutional law to women's rights groups in the wake of Kenyan constitutional reform. Alex has been honored to be involved with ASA since 2014, as a member of the Jack Spadaro Documentary Award selection committee.

Jordan Laney is an educator and scholar specializing in the political and social significance of cultural celebrations. She teaches Introduction to Appalachian Studies and Bluegrass Music courses at Virginia Tech, where she is a doctoral candidate in the ASPECT program. From Marion, North Carolina, Jordan is committed to serving the region and is dedicated to seeing Appalachian studies thrive. She is passionate about supporting youth and intergenerational movements, something she gained

experience in as the Y'ALL co-chair. More on her work can be found here: www.jordanlaney.com.

Karen Paar is the director of the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies and archivist of the Southern Appalachian Archives at Mars Hill University, where she has worked since 2008. She earned her PhD in Latin American history from UNC - Chapel Hill. Karen has attended the Appalachian Studies Association annual meetings since she has been at Mars Hill and has presented at two of these meetings. She has helped in Mars Hill's efforts to involve their students and faculty in the ASA and welcomes the 2019 conference to the Asheville area. In 2015, she served on the committee to select the Weatherford award winner for non-fiction. She also serves on the board of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in western North Carolina.

One Y'All Steering Committee Member (2017-2019) Vote for One

Liz Howard was born in Charleston, West Virginia, and raised in Radford, Virginia. She left Virginia to study music and culinary arts in Colorado and New York City. Liz is happy to be back home in Appalachia studying environmental horticulture, Appalachian studies, civic agriculture and food systems, and material culture and public humanities at Virginia Tech. Liz has conducted ethnographic research in southwestern Virginia and is currently interested in storytelling around community food systems. She is passionate about Appalachian foodways and has participated in the Appalachian Food Summit for the past two years. Liz is also a personal chef who utilizes local ingredients to develop meal plans and cater events. Though relatively new to ASA, Liz is enthusiastic about fostering an inclusive space for young people in Appalachia.

Olivia Lowery is from Big Stone Gap, Virginia. She is a third-year student at Hollins University, where she studies sociology, social justice, and gender and women's studies. She is involved with STAY as a steering committee member, is junior class president, and works as a resident assistant in a first-year student community. In January 2016 she interned at the Crooked Road Foundation, which works for the preservation of musical heritage in Appalachia. She is fully committed to a brighter future and a post-coal economy in the region, and believes that young Appalachians have a major role to play in shaping that future.

Jacob Meadows received his BS in economics from the University of Louisville in May 2016. Earning a minor in environmental analysis, Jacob chose to study the coal policies of the past, present, and future in an array of interdisciplinary courses. Currently as a master's degree candidate at Appalachian State University's Center for Appalachian Studies, Jacob is concentrating in sustainability and plans to study public

policy regarding the Appalachian region. Afterward, he hopes to utilize appropriate public policy to strengthen the communities, economies, environment, and leadership of Appalachia. Additionally, Jacob is working alongside Betsy Taylor and others to create a new Appalachia land study. He hopes to build a coalition of young Appalachian scholars from universities across the region to assist in the process.

Program Chairperson Elect #1 (2019 Conference)

Kim Reigle began her interest in Appalachian folktales from the time she began hearing them told at family gatherings in the mountains of western North Carolina. When she joined the faculty at Mars Hill University in 2011, she immediately found an outlet for her interest in folklore through the regional studies program. She is currently chair of the university's department of language and literature and teaches in the English program as well as the regional studies program. She served as the regional studies program coordinator from 2014-2016. She holds a PhD in English from UNC-Greensboro and an MA from Appalachian State University. Her active involvement with the Appalachia Studies Association began in 2014.

Vice President/President Elect (2020 Conference)

Kathryn Newfont is in the department of history and works with the Appalachian studies program and Appalachian Center at the University of Kentucky. Her book, *Blue Ridge Commons: Environmental Activism and Forest Politics in Western North Carolina* (University of Georgia Press), won ASA's 2012 Weatherford Award for Non-fiction, and the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award from the Western North Carolina Historical Association. Before joining the faculty at the University of Kentucky she was at Mars Hill University, where she held positions as faculty chair for the Liston B. Ramsey Center for regional studies and regional studies program coordinator. At Mars Hill she also served as project director for two National Endowment for the Humanities grants focused on the Appalachian region. A "Working the Woods" summer workshop series introduced educators to mountain forest history, and a successful Challenge Grant project built infrastructure for the Southern Appalachian Archives. She is co-editor with Debbie Lee of *The Land Speaks: New Voices at the Intersection of Oral and Environmental History* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press).

Program Chairperson Elect #2 (2020 Conference)

Jennifer Cramer is assistant professor of linguistics and faculty affiliate in Appalachian studies at the University of Kentucky. She teaches courses with focuses on Appalachian English, and her research investigates the

perception and production of linguistic variation at dialect and regional borders, with a specific interest in the dialects spoken in Kentucky. She is the author of *Contested Southernness: The linguistic production and perception of identities in the borderlands*, which highlights some of the Appalachian focus of her research program. Additionally, she served as guest editor for a special issue on Appalachian language for the *Southern Journal of Linguistics*.

The Treasurer (2017-2020) Vote for One

Travis A. Rountree is a doctoral candidate at University of Louisville. His dissertation on rhetorical depictions of the 1912 Hillsville, Virginia courthouse shootout analyzes media, ballads, plays, museums, and depictions of gender surrounding the event. He also earned an MA in English at Appalachian State University with a certificate in Appalachian studies. His master's thesis focuses on the Southern grotesque in contemporary Appalachian literature. Presently, he is working on a co-authored article titled "'Are Y'all Homos?': Methods for and in Queer Appalachia." His primary research interests are public memory, archives, and place-based pedagogy in the composition classroom. Travis has been attending ASA conferences since 2008 and has been a proud member of the steering committee for the past year. Through his nomination to treasurer, he hopes to contribute more to the association.

Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt is coordinator of the Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd University, editor of the Anthology of Appalachian Writers, director of the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and Writers Project, West Virginia fiction competition chair, director of the 2017 NEH Summer Institute at Shepherd University and 2013 and 2016 NEH Summer Seminars, and past president of ASA. Shurbutt was conference chair of the 2016 ASA conference. She has published widely on Appalachian writers Robert Morgan, Denise Giardina, Ron Rash, Fred Chappell, Homer Hickam, Nikki Giovanni, and others. Shurbutt was 2007 West Virginia Professor of the Year.

Dave Walker lives in Boone, North Carolina and works as the program manager for Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture's CRAFT program, which cultivates meaningful mentor relationship between aspiring and experienced farmers in the North Carolina mountains. This work developed out of his MA thesis from Appalachian State University's Center for Appalachian Studies. His research and work focus on regenerative agriculture, community development and gathering places, leading to articles in the *Appalachian Journal*, *Appalachian Voice*, and papers at ASA. He served as vice president of the Friends of High Country State Parks, currently serves on the Downtown Boone Development Association and is a member of Y'ALL. Dave believes that ASA has an important voice for

our region as we build a just, vibrant future.

The Secretary (2017-2020)

Maria Hale was born in Princeton, West Virginia and moved to Kingsport, Tennessee at age 15. As an undergraduate, she enrolled in Ted Olsen's Intro to Appalachian Studies course at East Tennessee State University. She had the honor of meeting Helen M. Lewis and participating in a panel discussion on using Helen's book, *Living Social Justice in Appalachia*, at the 2013 Appalachian Studies Association conference in Boone, North Carolina. Currently, Maria is enrolled in the MA Appalachian studies program at Appalachian State. Her research interests include the civil rights and new student movement in Appalachia and how social media shapes and influences collective identity and meaning in social movements. She and her husband and two children live in Boone, North Carolina.

Four At-large Program Committee Members (for the 2018 conference in Cincinnati, Ohio)

Ivy Brashear joined the staff of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development in February 2013 working primarily on Appalachian economic transition efforts. Before that, she was chief blogger at *The Rural Blog*, a product of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues. She has been a reporter at *The Hazard Herald* and at the *Times-Tribune* in Corbin; a filmmaker for the Appalachian Media Institute; a staff assistant with the Kentucky RIVERKEEPER; and a member of the Leadership Development and Youth Engagement Working Group for the Shaping Our Appalachian Region Initiative. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and Appalachian studies from Eastern Kentucky University, and a master's degree in community and leadership development from the University of Kentucky. She is a native of Viper, Kentucky, a fifth-generation Perry Countian, and a tenth-generation Appalachian.

Brent Hutchinson, a native of Lawrence County, Kentucky, became the seventh director of Hindman Settlement School in 2012. He has a BA in social science from Morehead State University, an MS in family studies/marriage and family therapy from the University of Kentucky, and a PhD in leadership studies from Dallas Baptist University. Hutchinson has worked in the nonprofit sector most of his career. Since arriving at Hindman, he has strengthened existing programming, has led the Settlement through a strategic plan, has reintroduced agriculture and food ways to the school's mission, and has worked to raise the quality of life in the community and region. The Settlement has begun engaging over four hundred students in 8th and 9th grades in Knott and Letcher Counties in

an effort to address issues related to post-secondary life. Hutchinson has also worked to streamline the Settlement's fiscal and administrative processes for the 21st century, on its way to becoming a Best Practices Nonprofit.

Susan Eike Spalding, Berea College (retired), is a teacher and scholar focused on Appalachian dance and culture, with a special focus on intercultural exchange in the creation of local and regional tradition. She chairs the ASA diversity and inclusion committee and has previously served on the steering committee and on the program committee. She chaired the local arrangements committee for the 2011 conference.

Suzanne (Sue) Tallichet is a professor of sociology at Morehead State University. She received her doctorate in rural sociology from Penn State University in 1991. She now teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in rural and environmental sociology and seminars in Appalachian studies. Her research interests have resulted in numerous articles and a book about women in underground coal mining. In 2006, she published *Daughters of the Mountain: Women Coal Miners in Central Appalachia*. Other research includes co-authored articles and book chapters about animal cruelty. Since 2004, she has served in a variety of positions with Kentuckians For The Commonwealth including chair and steering committee representative for the Rowan County Chapter. She has also been a member of the land reform committee and was among the earliest members of the litigation team. She is currently working on pipeline issues affecting her home county.

Four At-large Program Committee Members (for the 2019 conference in Asheville)

Meredith Doster. After earning a master's degree in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University, Meredith Doster is completing her PhD in religious studies at Emory University this spring. Meredith will complete her second term as ASA secretary at the 2017 conference and is the current co-chair of the Howard S. Dorgan Silent Auction. In January 2017, Meredith will be joining Mars Hill University as dean of adult and graduate studies and is delighted to contribute to the work of the 2019 conference.

Phil Jamison is a nationally-known old-time musician, flatfoot dancer, and square dance caller, who teaches Appalachian music and dance, as well as Appalachian studies and mathematics, at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. He has attended and participated in the annual Appalachian Studies Association conference every year since becoming a member in 2001. Over the years, he has done extensive research in the area of Appalachian dance, and his recently published book, *Hoedowns*,

Reels, and Frolics: Roots and Branches of Southern Appalachian Dance (University of Illinois Press, 2015), tells the story of these Southern traditions. www.philjamison.com.

Katherine Ledford is associate professor of Appalachian studies at Appalachian State University. She teaches Appalachian literature; cultural diversity in Appalachia; and graduate seminars on global Appalachia, bibliography and research, and pedagogy. She co-edited *Confronting Appalachian Stereotypes* (1999) and the media section for the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (2006). A past president of the Appalachian Studies Association (2012-2013), she is the founding chair of the association's international connections committee, which fosters communication among Appalachian studies scholars around the world. Dr. Ledford is co-editing a comprehensive anthology of Appalachian literature.

Ted Olson teaches Appalachian studies at East Tennessee State University. He served as editor of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* from 2009-2013 and was the recipient of the ASA's Jack Spadaro Documentary Award in 2014 and the ASA's Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award in 1992. The author of *The Bristol Sessions*, *Blue Ridge Folklife*, *Breathing In Darkness: Poems*, and *Revelations*, Olson edited *A Tennessee Folklore Sampler*, *The Hills Remember: The Complete Short Stories of James Still*, new editions of fiction by Sarah Orne Jewett and Sherwood Anderson, and four volumes of *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual*. Olson produced and wrote liner notes for several documentary albums of Appalachian music, and for his work as a music historian he has won or been a nominee for four Grammy Awards, two International Bluegrass Music Association Awards, and an Independent Music Award.

[CLICK HERE TO VOTE!](#)

2016-2017 Changes to the ASA Bylaws By Carol Boggess, President Elect and Meredith Doster, Secretary, Drafted November 17, 2016

1. Article IX Section 1b. "Appointed Officers."

In the list of appointed officers, added (15) International Connections Chairperson to reflect the updated status of the International Connections Committee.

2. Article IX Section 3b. "Term of Office."

In the list of appointed officers, added (15) International Chairperson to reflect the

updated status of the International Connections Committee.

3. Article X Section 1. "Duties of Officers. President/Conference Chairperson (Immediate Past President)/Immediate Past Conference Chairperson."

Added language clarifying the collaboration between the conference chair and the program chair who "work as a team to collaboratively envision the conference program and host the conference."

4. Article X Section 5. "Duties of Officers. Program Chairperson/Immediate Past Program Chairperson.

Added language specifying that the Program Chair works "in collaboration" with the Conference Chair to oversee the planning and efficient operation of all aspects of the annual conference.

5. Article X Section 22. "Duties of Officers. Silent Auction Chair."

Added Section 22 with a description of the Silent Auction Chairperson that reads, "The silent auction chair or co-chairs shall be responsible for coordinating all solicitation efforts, documentation, marketing, and management of the annual Howard Dorgan auction and will liaise with the program committee to coordinate local solicitations. Silent auction chair or co-chairs will provide documentation of all monies received to the ASA office and will transfer monies to office staff at auction end. "

6. Article X Section 23. "Duties of Officers. International Connections Chair."

Added section 23 with a description of the International Connections Chairperson that reads, "The International Connections Chair is responsible for facilitating conversations within the International Connections Committee to advance ASA members' engagement with scholars and activists outside the United States whose work intersects with Appalachian studies, such as practitioners of mountain studies and regional studies."

7. Article XI Section 2.a. "Program Committee Membership."

Added two positions to the list of the Program Committee membership, (8) Conference Chair (ex officio) and (9) Community Liaison.

8. Article XI Section 14. "Committees. International Connections Committee."

Added section 14 that outlines the membership and duties of the new standing committee that read.

a. Membership. The International Connections Committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least five ASA members appointed by the ASA president to three-year rotating terms. At least three of the committee members must have experience with international scholarship and/or activism. Additional scholars/activists from abroad who are not members of ASA may serve at the chairperson's discretion in a non-voting capacity.

b. Duties. The International Connections Committee will raise the profile of the

ASA and the field of Appalachian studies internationally; support connections between Appalachian studies and mountain studies globally; circulate the ASA preliminary call for papers internationally in the late spring to give international participants time to plan to participate; circulate the ASA final call for papers internationally; advise and assist conference planners with the logistics of working with international participants; and organize at least one comparative mountain studies session each year at the ASA conference.

ASA REPORTS

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report

For the 2017 conference, the diversity and inclusion committee is sponsoring a training session led by Highlander Research and Education, entitled "Building Transformative Communities and Collective People Power." This will be a double session held on Friday morning, March 10, hoping to set a tone for further discussion and action during the conference and the succeeding months. Following is the abstract for the training:

The Appalachian Studies Association conference is instrumental in gathering folks across race, class, sector, and interests. As the region gathers to uplift the hard work and achievements of those working towards a just economic transition, we must also discuss and dissect who's most impacted and in what ways. This session will break down race, class, and privilege and dive deep into how systemic forms of oppression are manifested in our daily lives. We will discuss, strategize, and build collective analysis around the importance of acknowledging race and class privilege in an economic transition movement with lower and working class people at the forefront. Join us as we reimagine the future for Appalachia while fighting for equity, justice, and thriving communities.

In addition, the committee sought proposals for other presentations that would reinforce this theme throughout the conference. Among these is a presentation by Kentucky SURJ (Showing up for Racial Justice). Some slots will be held open during the conference for issues that may have arisen since the proposal deadline, such as a rise in racist and xenophobic rhetoric in our communities, the rolling back of civil rights for LGBTQ citizens in several states, or the defunding of college diversity programs in the region. A room is being set aside for discussions of these and other topics as individuals have time and interest. We appreciate all of these

moves by the conference and program committee to encourage action and interaction.

The committee requested the following changes for conferences, and they are beginning to be addressed for 2017: use gender-inclusive language in registration materials and ASA bylaws; identify gender neutral restrooms; include preferred gender pronouns on name tags; pro-actively address the needs of those with differing abilities.

The position of community liaison has been pioneered by the 2017 conference and has now been added to the conference guidelines. Following is the position description: The community liaison for each conference serves in addition to local arrangements chair and program chair. The community liaison is charged with making contacts with local groups; asking them their interests; and exploring the possibility of having certain sessions at their venues rather than on campus. The goal is to pro-actively include local artists, activists, and community members and to ground the conference in the locality in which it takes place.

An item that still needs attention is updating the ASA website to better reflect our membership, goals, and interests. It is hoped that this can be accomplished prior to the 2017 conference.

The diversity and inclusion committee will meet on Saturday morning, March 11 at 8am. The meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Please come!

- Susan Spalding

Communications Committee Report

The first electronic version of Appalink was sent out last fall. We are excited to continue this green effort and welcome suggestions, questions and concerns. Please contact Eryn Roles at roles1@marshall.edu.

- Eryn Roles

Finance Committee Report

Members have likely noticed some slight changes at ASA, brought about by a tight financial picture in the previous year. Noticeable among those changes was a switch to a digital-only version of Appalink and a forthcoming digital version of the preliminary 2018 conference program. These changes will help us realize some savings in printing, and the steering committee continues to work on ways to not only improve our efficiency but increase revenues, as well.

Indeed, tight financial circumstances require that organizations innovate

and change the way they do business. That is not always a bad thing. In the case of digital delivery of Appalink, we can deliver the same quality with a significant savings and have been able to reap benefits that weren't possible with a printed version. For instance, we can now see statistics on how many people actually read the newsletter and the number who had invalid email addresses. If you have ideas on how we can innovate and improve efficiency, we encourage you to share those with the steering committee at our conference business meeting.

Still, we can't cut our way to success. That is why we must continue to explore ways to enhance our revenue streams. Certainly, a successful and well-attended conference is a top priority and will always be a mainstay of our income. We look forward to an outstanding annual event in Blacksburg, Virginia, and the conference organizers have done a commendable job of securing financial support. The level of commitment it takes to organize and identify funding for a large conference is staggering. While attendees focus on conference content, what they don't see is the financial support that helps us pay for everything from group transportation to program packets. Our conference host is providing generous financial support; so, we are very grateful to the administration of Virginia Tech to make this year's meeting possible. Too, ASA benefits from major support by Marshall University, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and a multitude of small gifts from individuals.

Our endowment continues to grow, though at a small pace. The fund was established in 2007 and now stands at about \$24,000 in value. The current plan is to hold these until our total reaches \$50,000; then, we will move the funds into an investment that will provide annual revenues for operations of the organization. The fund is augmented through a small portion of each person's annual membership dues. Thus, each of our paid members is helping advance ASA's long-term financial position. We hope that current fund-raising efforts will also help us grow the ASA endowment.

If you have suggestions about how we can improve our revenue streams or grow our endowment, I encourage you to get in touch. I would love to talk to you at the conference in March. You can also reach me by email at jspra2@uky.edu. The ASA has a compelling story to tell potential donors, and our members are the ones who can best relate their stories of professional and personal growth through ASA.

- *Jeff Spradling*

Journal of Appalachian Studies Editor Report

The journal is closing 2016 on a positive note, having gotten the fall issue completed and to press very early this fall. This is in stark contrast to this

time last year, when we found ourselves with a content shortfall to be addressed over the winter holidays. The 2016 holiday season will prove to be less hectic for the *JAS* editorial staff and reviewers. We are grateful for that. Still now is not the time to get complacent! Although our pipeline of incoming submissions seems to be adequate at this point, submissions to the forum on sustainable economic development have slowed down. We want to close this forum strongly, so we have been circulating our call for submissions again. Please help us by sharing this with your colleagues, far and wide.

The forum has been well-received by the readership. It seems that the forum succeeded in giving us the opportunity for a broad, focused, and extended conversation about topics of mutual interest and importance to the region without slowing down publications on other topics - publications that our junior faculty depend on in their quest for tenure and promotion. As a result, ASA members have suggested that we continue doing forums on different themes. There has been a suggestion that the *JAS* do a forum on pedagogy (teaching and learning). If you have other suggestions, please share them with Shaunna Scott, editor of *JAS*, at Shaunna.scott@uky.edu or any member of the editorial board. We will discuss these ideas and vote at the March 2017 editorial board meeting. We here at the journal wish you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous new year and look forward to seeing you in March in Blacksburg.

Announcement from the Journal

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* seeks submissions to complete its two-year forum on sustainable economic development in Appalachia, which started with the journal's Spring 2016 (Vol 22, No 1) issue and will end with the Fall 2017 (Vol 23, No 2) issue.

We invite the submission of manuscripts dealing with practices relevant to sustainable economic development in Appalachian communities. We will consider a wide-range of scholarship from a variety of disciplines and applied fields. Manuscripts focusing on economic development theory, empirical and/or applied research, or narrative essays on development issues will be welcome. We also seek research, which compares Appalachia to other regions in the world.

Scholars are encouraged to submit papers addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

Tourism and development

Infrastructure

Education, labor, capital and development

Entrepreneurship

Local food movements

Local currency

Environmental capital and sustainable development

Taxes and development

Vision-building

Health care and its effect on development

The Commons

Cooperatives, non-profits, employee-owned business

Out- and in-migration and development

Social capital, trust, politics, and development

Broadband and technology

Funding community and economic development

Place-based development

Downtown development

Land ownership

Gender and development

The creative class in Appalachia

Public participation methods

Globalization

Privatization and neoliberalism

Credit, access to capital

Social change, policy and movements

The deadline for manuscripts to be considered for the Fall 2017 issue is February 1, 2017.

Articles should be submitted electronically to the *JAS* online manuscript submission portal. This secure, personalized resource will allow you to track your manuscript through each step of the review and acceptance process. To get started, and view manuscript submission guidelines, visit the journal's [submissions page](#). Questions about the forum and/or the review process should be directed to the journal's editor, Shaunna Scott, at shaunna.scott@uky.edu or to the forum's special editor, Will Hatcher, at WIHATCHER@gru.edu - *Shaunna L. Scott*

Y'ALL

To keep up with the latest news and opportunities from Y'ALL please join our public Facebook group Y'ALL (Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners) and "follow" our Instagram and Twitter accounts [@yall4asa](#). If you want to receive our newsletter or have any questions or comments, please email us at yall4asa@gmail.com. Y'ALL will be sponsoring the following special events at ASA 2017.

Grassroots Coalition Training, Multipurpose Room, Newman Library, Thursday, March 9, noon-5:00 p.m.

The goal of this training is to cultivate and recognize the skills needed to facilitate an intergenerational, intersectional, and cohesive youth movement in the region. We hope to learn from those who have done this work before us while celebrating and wielding the power brought forward

by youth working in and for the region. The event is led by Brian Johns and Andrae Hash of Virginia Organizing and hosted by Y'ALL. Lunch is provided. This event is free, but reservations are required via <https://goo.gl/forms/XK8IBI4LemrBp3SO2> . Please send questions or concerns to Jordan Laney (jlaney@vt.edu). Conference registration is not required for participation in this training, so bring a friend and spread the word.

Hip-Hop Show, location TBA, Thursday, March 9

Y'ALL is organizing a concert featuring Sheisty Khrist. Location and door time TBA. Please check the Facebook event for more information as it is released. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Jordan Laney (jlaney@vt.edu) as soon as possible.

Mentoring Breakfast Sessions, location TBA, Friday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Y'ALL is working with ASA to provide two concurrent breakfasts to facilitate intergenerational conversations regarding the future of scholarship and activism in the Appalachian region. One breakfast will focus on those within academia who want a space to discuss their research projects, job strategies, and the state of academia more generally. Guest mentors include: Tony Harkins and Douglas Reichert Powell. The second breakfast will focus on those who do not see their future careers in academia and want to explore the possibilities of thriving activist and artist lives. Guest mentors are Katey Lauer, Lucy Hale, and Gabriel Piser.

Y'ALL Comm Meet and Eat, Multipurpose Room, Newman Library, Saturday, March 11, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

All those interested in the work of Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners are invited to attend this meeting and dinner. Vegetarian options will be provided.

Concurrent Session 5. ASA Committee Sponsored Roundtable Session: "Invisible Fences: The Experiences of First Generation College Students in Appalachia."

In this panel, we explore the "invisible fences" that first generation Appalachian college students and their families face as they navigate a process that is complicated and often alienating. The panelists will begin the conversation by sharing our narratives as first generation Appalachian college students and the challenges we faced when planning for and attending college. Our experiences span the post-secondary spectrum from the undergraduate through doctoral levels. Our work speaks broadly to the experiences of first generation college students as we undertake issues associated with the college choice and application processes, the social and cultural barriers students face once they enter college, and what it means to be

academically underprepared. We approach the work and conversations through a social-justice, advocacy stance in order to conceptualize how the needs of first generation college students from rural Appalachia can be better supported in preparing for and participating in post-secondary education. After we share our narratives, we invite the audience into dialogue to share about their own experiences and to collaborate on ways that this work may move forward. Guests participating in this roundtable include: Brittany Means Carowick, Brandi Slider Weekley, and Emily Blair.

Concurrent Session 8. ASA Committee Sponsored Roundtable

Session: "Exploring Critical Theory for Appalachian Scholars and Activists."

Appalachian studies has often reflected a deep and sincere interest in self-reflection and critique. As scholars elsewhere enthusiastically embrace important theoretical and practical innovations, this roundtable will explore what these innovations illuminate within Appalachian studies. The panelists share a desire to advance Appalachian studies by applying interventions from queer and feminist thought, theories of racial formation, analyses of neoliberalism in urban/rural economic restructuring, and critiques of Eurocentric traditions of knowledge. The panel will begin with short remarks explaining a selection of recent developments in critical theory (broadly construed) with which Appalachian studies in general has yet to engage. We intend to provide a straightforward and relatively jargon-free introduction to these materials and to note how they overlap or conflict with the concerns of thinkers and activists in Appalachia today. An extended Q&A and breakout discussions will follow our presentations. The panel places special emphasis on accessibility, discussion, and timeliness as we further our practices of self-reflection and together explore some valuable new tools for contemporary Appalachian scholar-activism. Guests participating in this roundtable include: Judson C. Abraham, Steven Pearson, Gabriel Piser, Hilary Malatino, Anna Grace Keller, and respondent Mary K. Anglin.

Y'ALL Conference Housing Links.

Y'ALL is compiling a list of housing options ranging from Airbnb's to local graduate students who are willing to host guests during the conference. These options are consistently cheaper than local hotel lodging. If you are interested, please contact Brittany Means Carowick(bameans@gmail.com).

Disclaimer: Information about housing and childcare options is provided for your convenience by the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA). ASA neither endorses or recommends any of these options. Members are solely responsible for making all housing and/or childcare arrangements and for determining which service/facility to use.

Room for All Y'ALL, Multicultural Center, Room 140, Squires Student

Center, throughout the conference.

Y'ALL is providing a space throughout the conference for folks to congregate, meet, nap, hang with their children, et cetera. Snacks will be provided and we will also have some DIY crafts to help you turn on or off your brain, whichever is needed!

Y'ALL Conference Hashtags, throughout the conference, use these hashtags [#YALL4ASA](#) and [#YALLhere2017](#).



SUPPORT THE 20TH ANNUAL HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION

Since Howard Dorgan launched the silent auction in 1998, this annual fundraiser has supported student and community-member participation at ASA conferences. The 2017 auction marks the twentieth anniversary of this important fundraiser. Please join us in making this year's auction worthy of the conference theme. Let "Extreme Appalachia" be your guide as you plan your contributions. As in years past, the silent auction team welcomes crafts, quilts, woodwork, memorabilia, pottery, home-canned and baked goods, spirits, event tickets, music, art, getaway opportunities, gently used and new books, and more. Start brainstorming and gathering your auction items now to help ensure that the 2017 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction reaches its goal of raising \$6,000 in support of conference scholarships.

DETAILS & LOGISTICS

The silent auction will run from 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. on Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11 in the Commonwealth Ballroom in the Squires Student Center. Please check in all donations at the auction as early as possible, so that

the bidding wars can begin. Tax deduction forms will be available on request. All items will be sold to the highest bidder upon Saturday evening's 5:15 p.m. closing. Please plan to be present at auction end with cash and/or check for your items. All items must be picked up no later than 6:45 p.m. to ensure a smooth check out and cleanup process.

If you would like to mail your auction donations in advance, please send them to ASA Silent Auction, 1204 Village Way South, Blacksburg, VA, 24060. For any questions about advance mailing, please contact Jean Haskell at jeanhaskell415@gmail.com. For all other inquiries and volunteer opportunities, please email silent auction co-chairs, Meredith Doster and Jesse Edgerton, at appalstudies@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more details on our forthcoming Facebook page.



The National Endowment for the Humanities and Shepherd University announce the application call for the 2017 NEH Summer Institute Voices from the Misty Mountains, Appalachian Writers and Mountain Culture. Any public school teacher or educator is invited to apply. For application details, see the Misty Mountains website at <http://www.shepherd.edu/neh>.

The July 9-29 Summer Institute will be held at Shepherd University, in Shepherdstown, the oldest town in West Virginia, surveyed by George and Charles Washington and located on a high bluff above the Potomac River, 65 miles from Washington, DC. Partnering with the Misty Mountains Institute will be the Contemporary American Theater Festival, a national theater festival during the month of July.

Highlights of the institute will include novelist and playwright Silas House, poet Nikki

Giovanni, storyteller Adam Booth, Civil War Institute director James Broomall, ethnomusicologist and director of the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd University Rachael Meads, and Appalachian scholar and NEH Summer Institute director Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt. Other highlights include Contemporary American Theater Festival productions, storytelling and Appalachian music workshops and programs, CATF dramatic storytelling workshops, an Appalachian road trip taking NEH teachers to the West Virginia Culture Center, Beckley Coal Mine Exhibition, Thurmond National RR Park, and Hawks Nest State Park.

The Misty Mountains Summer Institute is a National Endowment for the Humanities summer award for public school teachers to study Appalachian culture and literature, as well as to immerse themselves in theatre for an enriching summer learning experience. Application information can be found at <http://www.shepherd.edu/neh>; click the application link, letter to participants, and eligibility criteria links. For additional questions before the March 1, 2017 application deadline, contact Institute Director Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt at SShurbut@shepherd.edu.

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT is a new addition to Appalink. Here we have **Brittany Means Carowick** and **Kristin Kant-Byers** with our first spotlight exchange. If you have suggestions for other interviews, please contact Eryn Roles at roles1@marshall.edu. Enjoy!



Kristin Kant-Byers

What's your name? What's your stance on surname hyphenation? I recently changed my name and was shocked at the difficulty. Have you encountered this bureaucratic difficulty yourself?

Kristin Kant-Byers. Sadly, the "Kant" part of my name has nothing to do with Immanuel Kant and is not pronounced in the same way. Indeed, you "Kant" pronounce my last name with an Ah-sound. You can pronounce it with a short A-sound. I was teased for my last name growing up which is why I'm very loyal to it. Defending and explaining something long enough keeps one bound to it. Plus, I love being my parents' daughter. So when I married, I added my husband to my life and thus, wanted to add his name to my identity. And now, three kids later, I share my children's names. People can do what they want when it comes to names, but I like using all my names- hence my hyphenation. On official documents, I list all three of my middle names as well as my first and last names. And yes,

it can be cumbersome.

What's your favorite one-liner? (Joke...or pick-up line.)

What kind of fruit does a vampire eat? A nectarine. (I made that up when I was in middle school!)

You're in Rochester, NY. How did you get there? What parts of your education & background led you there? Also, what's your job title/field of study?

My journey to Rochester, NY is rooted in romance and carried out in practicality. My husband, Carl, is from Rochester. We met through mutual friends and maintained a long distance romance for nine years. At the time of our wedding, Carl was the only one of us who had a job with income. I love this part of the world and appreciate the landscape, the water, the fresh produce, the smart and friendly people, and the snow! It was an easy choice for me to relocate here. Since moving to Rochester, I taught anthropology at a few colleges and universities. Now, I have a steady adjunct teaching load at Rochester Institute of Technology. I completed my PhD in anthropology at the University of Kentucky. My research explores tourism and art and focuses on mechanisms of representation at play in tourist settings. I continue this research in and around the Rochester area including Finger Lakes wine region and the New York Southern Tier.

I believe that, as Whitman said, we contain multitudes. What is one way that aspects of yourself are seemingly at odds, but exist in one person?

What a great question! There are three aspects of myself that remind me of my "multitudes." I'm a mother of three, practicing Catholic, an academic. I actually came to anthropology because of my love and interest in people instilled initially by my faith, and I continue going to church because of the supportive community I've found there. Few academics admit to having faith in a spiritual being. Those of us who do admit it, usually whisper it. As for mothering, when I am in the middle of the messiest kind of diaper change I remind myself that I have a PhD. It's funny to me that even though I've achieved this intellectual, tenacious goal, I still deal with the mundane and even the grotesque of daily life. And why not? Daily life is really where the world works, and it truly is a sacred privilege to both change someone's diaper as a parent and to change someone's perspective as a professor. So maybe my multitudes are not so much at odds, but simply demonstrate the range of my person.

How did you come to be affiliated with ASA?

I grew up in Maryville, Tennessee, graduated from Maryville College, and then went to Temple University in Philadelphia for my master's. It wasn't until I left the region that I realized Appalachia offered a lot to teach me about human culture. I was excited to find a conference devoted to the region and attended my first ASA Conference in 2000 - the Knoxville conference. I was thrilled to be a part of a community of scholars and activists who learned together. So back in 2004, I volunteered to be on the program committee, but was elected to the steering committee instead. I was asked to chair the newly formed finance and development committee in 2006, and then was eventually elected to treasurer in 2011.

Talk to me about the intensely rewarding role of Treasurer. What does this job entail? What has been the most rewarding part of it? How long have you served in this role?

Honestly, the treasurer's job is an easy one. I work most closely with our executive director and president to monitor ASA accounts and contracts. I also work with the finance chair to

monitor and project ASA budgets. I have no experience in accounting, so learning some very basic principles has been a rewarding part of this job.

I know we're looking for a new Treasurer. What kind of candidate would be the right fit? What would you say to our readers to encourage them to step up into this role?

I think when people hear the word "treasurer" they think they need to be a math whiz or even like math. The treasurer position is more about understanding how the organization works, working with people to formulate goals, and representing the financial availability or constraints towards achieving those goals. I think a good candidate is someone who is a little cautious towards spending money, but not afraid to stand for something ASA needs to serve its members.

What has been your favorite ASA conference? Why?

My favorite conference was the Maryville Conference in 2007 simply because Maryville College is my alma mater, and I was teaching there at the time. I felt like ASA came home.

Tell me about one of your favorite "water cooler" (out-of-session) moments at ASA.

It happens at every conference. It's that moment at the end of sessions when everyone is headed to a restaurant for dinner. I never plan ahead with whom I'll have dinner. Usually, a group of people join up as we're leaving a session or the exhibits. I love that level of comradery.

Why do you think the ASA is important as an entity?

ASA is important because it is inclusive. There is support, encouragement, and strength in such inclusiveness. All that's required to belong is an interest in learning about this region. Certainly there are members who do much more to serve the people, to protect the resources, and to promote the region. Still, there is a place for everyone in the ASA.

What are some of the most important issues you see facing Appalachia today?

I think Appalachia is much like the rest of our country in that economic conditions need to be addressed. Debilitating drug use and job scarcity concern me. Environmental resource overuse and abuse are ongoing issues. These are systemic problems linking the Appalachia region to the world through globalization.

What is something you are most optimistic about in terms of our area or area of study?

Going back to the inclusivity of ASA, I am optimistic that even more voices of the region be heard. At several of our recent conferences, I was impressed to hear the voices of people invited and empowered to share their stories, but I want to hear more and different voices. A big challenge for ASA members is to keep listening to all the voices that cover the circle of political philosophy.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I'm leaving my position in ASA leadership because the opportunity to serve ASA members and the opportunity to learn the organization should be passed on. It has been such a good experience. Like those before me, I'm happy to have someone new make their contributions.



Brittany Means Carowick

So, Brittany, what's your name? It's grown recently. Tell me how.

Brittany Means Carowick. I got married this summer!

What basic information helps to identify you? I spend a lot of time thinking about identity, so this is a complex question.

I benefit from identifying with the societal expectations of my appearance; I'm a white, cisgender, heterosexual woman. I'm also a first-generation college student, a native Appalachian, a feminist, and a believer in social and racial justice. I strongly identify as West Virginian. I'm very excited to be part of the 2017 cohort of the Appalachian Transition Fellows, a fellowship sponsored by the Highlander Research and Education Center. Through that opportunity, I am serving with the West Virginia Center for Civic Life. I'll be coordinating their "What's Next, West Virginia?" program, which is an asset-based community and economic development initiative. I'm based in my hometown of Charleston, West Virginia.

How do you actually spend your days?

Wishing I had an opportunity to veg out and watch *Friends* reruns.

You're such a cheerful, outgoing person. Is there something fun and interesting about yourself you'd like ASA members to know?

Thank you! It's hard to pick one thing. I recently did one of those "which three fictional characters can be combined to represent you" self-discovery probes, and I think that I'm a Leslie Knope/Charlotte York Rosenblatt/Monica Gellar hybrid.

What's your affiliation with ASA? What role do you play in ASA?

I started in ASA as a regular member/conference attendee, then co-founded the Young Appalachian Leaders & Learners subcommittee (Y'ALL) with Kathryn Engle. I'm still involved with Y'ALL as a core member, but I actually took on the role of awards chair two years ago. Y'ALL is always looking for new members - they elect a new co-chair each year - and the individual award selection committees also always look for fresh faces. In particular, the Williams-Brown (our "Lifetime Achievement" award) is looking for non-academics who can help diversify their opinions.

Why do you volunteer with ASA? You're spending time, effort, and money to do so...what compels your commitment?

I volunteer as a leader in ASA because the goals and mission of the organization are important to me. When I first got involved in the leadership, I felt that I was filling an important role and adding an unrepresented voice to the steering committee. I've remained on because I still feel that way. I came to ASA as an academic, but have remained in it as a

young professional in community and economic development work. I think it's important to have both academic and non-academic voices represented, as well as more young folks in leadership.

What was your first ASA conference? Your favorite conference, or session at a conference and why?

My first conference was in 2008 at Marshall University. When I read the schedule of sessions for the first time, I thought I'd found the Holy Grail. Here were all these people - hundreds and hundreds - talking about all the things I wanted to learn about! It was an incredible experience. I don't really know what's been my favorite session, but I always say that I'm sure the upcoming conference is going to be my favorite one yet. Each year different things stand out to me.

What are important issues you see facing Appalachia today?

At this point, many places in Appalachia are facing a gut-wrenching uncertainty. What's going to happen next? Are they going to be able to stay and pay their bills? This is terrifying but also a precipice for incredible opportunity. We can set our own destinies.

What's something you are most optimistic about in terms of our area of study?

As far as "study" goes, I've noticed the routine surfacing of alternative narratives of Appalachia. More diverse voices are coming out - and being listened to - than I think really have before. We're complicating the idea of Appalachian identity, which is wonderfully fruitful.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

40th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 9-12, 2017 Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia

EXTREME APPALACHIA

Anita Puckett, Conference Chair, apuckett@vt.edu
Emily Satterwhite, Program Chair, satterwhite@vt.edu
Serena Frost, Local Arrangements Chair, sdfrost@vt.edu

41st Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

April 5-8, 2018, Millennium Hotel and Resorts
Cincinnati, Ohio

Re-stitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond its Borders

Hello from Appalink!

Debbie Zorn, Conference Chair, debbie.zorn@uc.edu
Joy Leane Gritton, Program Chair, j.gritton@moreheadstate.edu
Omope Carter Daboiku , Local Arrangements Chair, daboiku3@gmail.com

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