



NEWS New Deal

The National New Deal Preservation Association

* Bulletin *

Lessons from the New Deal – A blueprint for renewing American prosperity and ingenuity

May is National Historic Preservation Month

• • • Come to our Fireside Chat • • •

The New Mexico Chapter celebrates history with program about *“The Cradle Will Rock”* our next New Deal Fireside Chat. On Thursday, May 29th, **Dr. Robert Benedetti**, award-winning Producer/Director-Writer-Teacher-Consultant, Author and three-time Emmy and Peabody Award winning film producer will share the tantalizing story of the June 1937 production of the musical, “The Cradle Will Rock.”

THIS WPA-FEDERAL THEATER PROJECT (FTP) production was written by Marc Blitzstein, directed by Orson Welles and produced by John Houseman. At that time, labor strikes were at an all time high in the nation and particularly in New York where this show was to be performed. The continuation of the FTP was tenuous and some members of Congress were not supportive. Therefore, this musical may have been “the straw that broke the camel’s back” and what a straw it was on June 16, 1937!

WHAT HAPPENED IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK CITY on opening day is quite a story and Benedetti knows it well. Come and learn about those fireworks! Hollywood’s Tim Robbins thought it so hot, he later made a movie about it.



BENEDETTI’S OUTSTANDING WORK in theater has also brought him the Lifetime Career Achievement Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education in 2005 and in 2012 he was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre at the Kennedy Center. Benedetti most recently completed a screenplay for HBO on the 1885 Chicago Haymarket bombing and is now an adjunct professor at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design. His presentation on the 29th will be held at the **Weckeser Theater within the Greer Garson Theater** on that campus starting at 5:30 p.m.

JOIN US ON MAY 29th

5:30 – 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

• • • NNDPA Adds to its library • • •

We are pleased to announce that NNDPA has acquired a collection of 43 of the 48 state guidebooks and other topics of the WPA’s Federal Writers’ Project from the estate of Santa Fe rare book dealer and early NNDPA board member, Shirley Jacobson. Additional New Deal related books brought the total acquisition to 92 books all acquired thanks primarily to private donations and for that, we are most appreciative. These valuable books are in addition to our existing 434 volumes on New Deal subjects and we are starting “A Quest” to locate a Southwest based New Deal library space that could closely link with the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park. Any suggestions and donations towards this would be most exciting. In the meantime, anyone interested in taking advantage of this New Deal collection, please contact us.

More Great Reading

MAY 2014



NNDPA

P.O. Box 602
Santa Fe, NM 87504

P. (505) 473-3985

C. (505) 690-5845

newdeal@cybermesa.com

www.newdeallegacy.org

• • • Texas to Host New Deal Symposium • • •

On June 14, 2014, noted scholars will gather at Tarrant County College – Northwest Campus in Ft. Worth to focus on a variety of New Deal programs launched in Texas. The featured speaker will be M. Scott Sosebee from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacagdoches, Texas. The title of his speech – “What the Jeffersonian Democrats Forgot: Rural Texans were Still Populists” – should provide some interesting perspective. Other speakers will include:

Mary Jo O’Rear, Independent Scholar, Corpus Christi, Texas

“Seawall Struggle. Part One: Corpus Christi on the Brink of the New Deal “

Lynn Burlbaw, Texas A & M University

“Works Projects in Texas, or CWA, PWA and WPA: Putting Texas to Work”

Brian Cervantez, Tarrant County College, Northwest Campus

“The National Recovery Administration in North Texas”

Bryan E. Wheeler, Texas Tech University

“From Coit Tower to College Station: Radical Artists and Texas Post Office Murals”

Carrol Scogin-Brincefield, Independent Scholar, Somerville, Texas

“The New Deal and Socialism in Texas”

Steve Digerlando, Lone Star College, Montgomery Campus

“Republican Leadership in California during the New Deal”

Contact Tai Kriedler at – tai.kriedler@wtha.org – for more information

New Deal License Plates still available

[Click Here to Order](#)



Other Relevant Links

[Save the Post Office](#)

[New Deal Post Office Murals](#)

[New Deal Art Registry](#)

[New Deal Network](#)

[The Living New Deal](#)

[Rural Organizing Project](#)

[WPA Today](#)

• • • NNDPA Continues the Fight • • •

Because so many post offices were built between 1933-43 by New Deal funding and beautified by its arts programs, the National New Deal Preservation Assn. (NNDPA) continues its focus on the pending closure of many post offices and wants to alert you to the direct issues and broader implications of the postal service consolidation. In an effort to deal with economic conditions, Congress has brought to the fore the concept of privatization of this entity which is no longer a federal government agency. NNDPA is opposed to these actions and hopes to motivate you to join us in protecting endangered post offices. Possibly your own.

NNDPA PRESIDENT HARVEY SMITH gave testimony to the California Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in March 2014 in which he provided useful insight and perspective on the broader issues surrounding the United States Post Office and its key role in our democracy. The full testimony is available on our web site:

Harvey Smith’s Testimony

SAVE OUR POST OFFICES: Many communities are standing up to these USPS actions and are taking steps to preserve their beloved local post offices. Our efforts are directed at the USPS to find other ways to keep the buildings open and/or develop other uses for the spaces, keeping the public art intact and in public view. These buildings and their art are part of our nation’s historic legacy.

THE BOTTOM LINE is that Congress created the problem and Congress needs to fix it. To this end, we encourage each of you to contact your Congressional members and express your concerns about potential closings in your community. For more information on the pressing issues involved, please check out the links on this page and contact information provided on page 3 of this Bulletin. Thank you for your attention to this critical challenge.

Harvey Smith, President

Kathryn Flynn, Executive Director

National New Deal Preservation Association

Excellent Sources of information

FOR THE MOST COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE and the issues that threaten this uniquely American institution, click on the link below. Headquartered at the Gallatin School at New York University, their email is: admin@savethepostoffice.com

www.savethepostoffice.com

WPA Today

Brent McKee
P.O. Box 9748
Arnold, MD
(410) 858-7155
bmckee383@gmail.com
www.wpatoday.org

The Living New Deal

Department of Geography
505 McCone Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-4740
(510) 642-3903
walker@berkeley.edu
www.savethebpo.com (about the Berkeley Post Office)

New Deal Art Registry

Barbara Bernstein, Founder
San Francisco, CA
(415) 297-9469
admin@newdealartregistry.org

Rural Organizing Project

P.O. Box 1350
Scappoose, Oregon 97056
(503) 543-8417
www.rop.org

New Deal Network

The Roosevelt Institute
4079 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538
(212)444.9130 www.rooseveltinstitute.org

NNDPA highly recommends reading four outstanding articles by clicking the links below. They provide greater context and perspective on the post office's profound influence in American society. Hard copies available upon request by contacting Kathy Flynn at the NNDPA office: (505) 473-3985

The Fading Genius of the US Post Office

by Gray Brechin – Op-Ed in the U.K.'s *The Guardian*

Post Office sale is a surrender to corporate interests

by NNDPA President Harvey Smith

Congress Must Not Hobble Postal Service

The New York Times coverage of Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and his proposed legislation

High on Landmark Panel's List: A Post Office Lobby

by David W. Dunlap, *The New York Times*

A Bit of Good News

NEW DEAL MURALS RESTORED IN SAN FRANCISCO: After a major effort by city commissions, politicians, community groups and private businesses to save the murals and protect the building, San Francisco's Coit Tower was reopened May 14th after a \$1.7 million restoration of the leaking roof and the water-damaged historic fresco murals depicting the city during the Great Depression. Built in 1933, this historical landmark has stood for 81 years. Twenty-five artists were commissioned to paint various murals in 1934 as part of the New Deal Public Works of Art Project, and restored with money from the city's Recreation and Park Department, the San Francisco Arts Commission, and Bank of America.

Click here to read the full article by Jill Tucker of the San Francisco Chronicle

SANTA FE, NM RESIDENTS were greatly relieved to learn just recently that their main post office downtown will not be moving from that location. For months it was slated to be relocated, but Santa Feans protested loudly causing the USPS to reverse its decision. Sadly however, other New Mexico post offices are still scheduled to be closed. For more information check the above [savethepostoffice](http://savethepostoffice.com) website.