

10/30/23

Laurence A. Glasco  
Associate Professor of History  
University of Pittsburgh

## **EDUCATION**

A.B. Antioch College, 1962

M.A. SUNY Buffalo, 1964

Ph.D., History, SUNY, Buffalo, 1973

## **BOOKS**

“The Power of Place: August Wilson and Pittsburgh,” seeking contract with the University of Pittsburgh Press, to be completed by August 2023.

“In His Own Words: The Life and Times of K. LeRoy Irvis, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives,” work in progress.

*August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays* (with Christopher Rawson), (Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, 2011.)

*Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County* (Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1995).

*African American Historic Sites Survey of Allegheny County* (With Eliza S. Brown and Daniel Holland.) (Harrisburg, Pa.: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1994).

*Ethnicity and Social Structure: Irish, Germans, and Native-Born of Buffalo, N.Y., 1850-1860* (New York: Arno Press, 1980).

## **EDITED BOOK**

*WPA History of the Negro in Pittsburgh* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004).

10/30/23

## REFEREED ARTICLE

“August Wilson’s Hill District: The People, The Place, The History” in Khalid Y. Long and Isaiah M. Wooden, editors, *August Wilson in Context*, Cambridge University Press, estimated publication date 2024.

## OTHER ARTICLES

“Charles Teenie Harris: Images of Black Pittsburgh,” in Cheryl Finley, Laurence Glasco, and Joe W. Trotter, editors, *Teenie Harris, Photographer: Image, Memory, History*, (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011).

*From Colored Orphans to Youth Development: The 125 Year History of Three Rivers Youth, 1880-2005*, (with Patricia Mitchell and Margaret Albert) (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Office of Public Affairs, 2006). Reissued in 2010

“Guide Book to Black History of Western Pennsylvania,” map and guide created with Young Preservationists Association, (Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, 2009).

“Free at Last?,” catalog of an exhibition on slavery in Western Pennsylvania, Heinz History Center, October 2008

“Two Politicians, Different Generations, Same Story” A Comparison of Barack Obama and K. Leroy Irvis, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* Op-Ed page (13 January 2008, p. H1.)

“Mixed Races/Mixed Picture: The Racial Divide in Local High School Sports,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 2007

“History of Black Migration to Pittsburgh” and “*The Pittsburgh Courier* and the History of Black Migration,” in Steven A. Reich, *Encyclopedia of the Great Black Migration* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2006)

“Samuel Rosenberg’s Hill District,” in Barbara L. Jones, *Samuel Rosenberg: Portrait of a Painter* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003)

“To Make Some Place Special: History of the Civil Rights Movement in Pittsburgh,” in Commemorative Booklet for dedication of Freedom Corner Monument, June 2001. Essay was serialized by *Pittsburgh Courier* in 6 parts, available on-line at [www.freedomcorner.org](http://www.freedomcorner.org)

“History, Art and Images of the Hill: Carlos Peterson’s visual interpretation of the Hill District,” *Heart* (Fall 1997)

10/30/23

“Taking Care of Business: Black Entrepreneurship in Turn-of-the-Century Pittsburgh,” *Pittsburgh History* (January 1996)

“Optimism, Dilemmas, and Progress: The Pittsburgh Survey and Black Americans,” in M. Greenwald and M. Anderson, eds., *Pittsburgh Surveyed: Social Science and Social Reform in the Early Twentieth Century*, (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 1996), pp. 205-220

Guest editor (with Joe Trotter of Carnegie Mellon University), “Pittsburgh’s Communities of Color,” special issue of *Pittsburgh History Magazine*: (Jan., 1996).

“Taking Care of Business: Black Entrepreneurship in Turn-of-the-Century Pittsburgh,” *Pittsburgh History* (Winter 1995/96).

"Double Burden: History of Blacks in Pittsburgh," in S.P. Hays, ed., *City at the Point* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1989)

### **MEDIA APPEARANCES; DOCUMENTARY VIDEOS**

“We Knew What We Had,” PBS documentary on the history of jazz in Pittsburgh, 2017.

“The Ground on Which I Stand,” PBS American Masters documentary on August Wilson, 2015

“Historic Sites relating to Black History in Western Pennsylvania,” discussing map and guidebook created with Young Preservationists Association, “On-Q,” WQED-TV, 2010

Talks on “Free at Last?” on KQV with Elaine Effort (2009); Secondary Teacher Forum organized by Prof. Patrick Manning to introduce public school teachers to World History (2009)

“Pittsburgh’s Civil Rights Movement,” WQED-TV, 2009;

“The Confederate Flag and Black Americans,” Esther Bush’s Urban League Saturday radio talk show, WAMO radio, May 2009

“Preserving August Wilson’s Birthplace,” with Elaine Effort, KQV radio, June 2009

“The Future of the Hill,” Lynn Hayes Freeland show, KDKA-TV, May 2009

“August Wilson’s Legacy,” KQV (Elaine Effort) on the dedication of historical marker at Wilson house, 2007

“Cuba Today,” talk at Melwood Screening Room for upcoming documentary on Cuban Cinema (2005)

10/30/23

## **COMMUNITY TALKS/PRESENTATIONS**

“Romare Bearden’s Pittsburgh,” talk at Bearden National Conference, Pittsburgh (April 2010)

“The Mellon Arena and Black Pittsburgh,” Save the Igloo panel, Pittsburgh Public Theater, 2010

“The FROGS: Centennial History of Pittsburgh’s Oldest and Most Elite Men’s Organization,” Edgewood Country Club, 2009

“Irvis and Obama,” talk for History Honors secondary school students at the Heinz History Center, 2009

“The Obama Phenomenon,” Bellefield Baptist Church, 2009; “Barack Obama and K. LeRoy Irvis: Lessons to be Drawn,” Western Pennsylvania Black Political Assembly, 2009

K. Leroy Irvis, panel discussion of his life and legacy, CCAC (Community College of Allegheny College), September 2009

Lecture on “Black History and Black Genealogy,” for African-American Historical and Genealogical Society, February 2009

“Martin Delany and Antislavery,” First Baptist Church, March 2009

“Using Images in Teaching and writing African American History,” at School of Library and Information Science, 2009

“Antislavery in Pittsburgh,” African Diaspora Symposium, sponsored by History Department’s World History Center, 2009

“Blacks in Contemporary Cuba,” School of Social Work students workshop for a Cuba field trip, March, 2009

“Black Cross Dressers in the History of the Hill District,” Space Gallery, Pittsburgh, 2009

“Blacks at Pitt: 1960s to the Present.” Lead researcher for Hillman Library display, African-American Alumni Council, Homecoming Week, 2008.

“Black Cross Dressers in the History of the Hill District,” Warhol Museum, 2007;

“History of Jazz in Pittsburgh,” Hill House, 2007

“Black Music: The Slavery Era,” NEH program for school teachers , 2007

“India’s Dalits and America’s Blacks: Comparisons and Strategies,” San Jose, California, 2007

10/30/23

TV, newspaper, and radio interviews on Pittsburgh Courier photographer Teenie Harris: ABC-TV; National Geographic Channel, KDKA-TV; WAMO radio; New York Times, March 2001.

Appearance in Ken Love documentary, "The Pittsburgh Courier: A Documentary History," 2007

Appearances in "The Lion of Pennsylvania: K. Leroy Irvis" by University of Pittsburgh; "Samuel Rosenberg: Pittsburgh Painter of the Hill" by Ken Love; "Torch Bearers: The Civil Rights Movement in Pittsburgh" by WQED-TV; "Kwanza in Pittsburgh" by WQED TV

Consultant for Bill Judson's 2010 documentary film on Pittsburgh Civil Rights leader, "Nate Smith."

"From Doorway to Distinction: History of Blacks at the University of Pittsburgh," documentary which aired at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club, February, 2009

Narrator of Robert Hill documentary: "Free at Last," video on slavery in Pittsburgh; available at University of Pittsburgh, Hillman Library, [www.library.pitt.edu/freetatlast](http://www.library.pitt.edu/freetatlast)

Appearance on Bob Studebaker documentary on WDUQ, "History of Jazz in Pittsburgh"

Talks on K. Leroy Irvis at CAUSE (Carnegie Mellon University); Soldiers & Sailors Memorial celebration of Pittsburgh History; Historic Marker dedication of K. LeRoy Irvis' office; the Sewickley Academy; Pennsylvania Black History Conference; Association for the Study of African American Life and History (2008); Bev Smith talk show, WAMO radio, 2007

Walking tour and talk on Hill District, National Trust for Historic Preservation International Conference, Pittsburgh, 2006

"Early Black Business in Pittsburgh, 1900-1920," at African American Chamber of Commerce (2005)

"Interracial History of the Hill District," talk for staff of local HUD (Housing and Urban Development), 2005

"Doing Black Genealogy," talk for local chapter of African American Historical and Genealogical Society, 2005

"Importance of Teenie Harris in Black Photography," talk given at premiere of video by Ken Love, "One Shot," the story of Teenie Harris, Byham Theater, February 2001

"Teenie Harris and the Hill District," talks given at the Westmoreland County Museum of Art, The Allegheny College, Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church, First Unitarian Church, Warhol Museum, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, Frick Art Museum, Rodef Shalom, Carnegie Museum of Art, Fine Arts Department (Univ. of Pittsburgh); Friendship Village (Upper St. Clair); Clarion University.

10/30/23

Consultant for, and cited in, a number of articles which appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, including: "Obama Candidacy Raises Old Questions About What is Black"; "Racial Heritage of Former Presidents"; "Pittsburgh 250 Grassroots Community Connections Projects"; "Ambassadors Field Questions about Race, Ethnicity and Stereotypes"; "Tribute to August Wilson"; "The Gem of the Hill District"; "Next Page: Homewood"; "Finding Aunt Esther"; "Is Casino a Good Gamble for Hill District?"; "Protest on August Wilson's Hill."

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

History 42, History 43: Survey of African American History (taught in 1970s, 1980s)

History 1062: Human Rights in World History. Taught annually.

History 1669: History of Black Pittsburgh. Taught annually.

History 1772: Race, Caste, and Ethnicity in World Perspective. Taught annually.

### **STUDENTS**

Chair, Dissertation Committee, Ralph Proctor, "Racial Discrimination Against Black Teachers and Black Professionals in the Pittsburgh Public School System, 1834-1973 (1979)

Chair, Dissertation Committee, Lenus Jack, "Kinship and Residential Proximity: A Case Study of a Black Extended Family in New Orleans," (1980)

Chair, Dissertation Committee, May Alice Ridley, PhD dissertation "The Black Community of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee, 1860-1870," (1982)

Co-chair, Dissertation committee, William Conrad, "Development in Extractive Communities: Ridgway and St. Marys, Pennsylvania, 1850-1914 (2008)

Member, Dissertation committee, Colter Harper, "The Crossroads of the World," A Social and Cultural History of Jazz in Pittsburgh's Hill District, 1920-1970" (2011)

Chair, Laura S. Grantmyre Dissertation Committee, "Conflicting Visual Representations of Redevelopment in Pittsburgh's Hill District, 1943-1968 (2013)

Co-Chair, Johnathan J. White Dissertation Committee, "It Was All a Dream: Pittsburgh Musicians Local 471: Collective Memory and Alternate Truths," (2020)

Advisor, Honor students' theses: Whitney Williams, Adrian Monge

Member, RISE mentoring program for African American undergraduates, 2007

10/30/23

Three students from my “History of Black Pittsburgh” course presented a paper on the Negro Leagues at Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues Conference, 2009

## **UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

My engagements with the Pittsburgh community have been so numerous that I will present my activities through three academic years, 2020, 2015, and 2000.

### **2020-2021.**

Member, Board of Directors of the Heinz History Center

Member, Executive Board of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

Member, African American Advisory Committee, Heinz History Center.

Treasurer of the National August Wilson Society,

I was interviewed that year by Andrew Stockey of WTAE-TV regarding the Black Lives Matter response to the killing of George Floyd; I was interviewed by Bill Flanagan’s “Our Region’s Business” of WPXI-TV on why Juneteenth should be celebrated as a holiday;

### **Consulting.**

Evaluator, “Pittsburgh, Virginia,” exhibition at the Ft. Pitt Museum on Blacks and Indians in Colonial Western Pennsylvania,.

Consultant, Ken Love’s documentary, “George Barbour, Journalist,” concerning pioneer Pittsburgh Black journalist George Barbour. Premiered Feb. 11, 2021..

**2015-2016.** I served on the Board of Directors of the Heinz History Century and the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, and on the African American Advisory Committee of the Heinz History Center; I continued my active pace of public talks. February, Black History Month, was especially busy. I lectured on August Wilson at the Black History Month celebration of Hillman Library; I gave a talk on local black leadership to Leadership Pittsburgh; I was interviewed by Elaine Effort of KQV radio; I gave a talk at Giant Eagle’s Saturday Tributes to Black History; I spoke at Winchester-Thurston School; I spoke in the Anthropology Department at Pitt; and I chaired a panel at Joe Trotter’s CAUSE conference on Blacks in the Urban Economy.

May 9-16, I gave a series of lectures at Newcastle University (England) on Pittsburgh, August Wilson, and the Black Arts Movement.

10/30/23

**Department Service** I served as Secretary of the History Department, furnishing minutes of department meetings. I was appointed chair of the Search Committee for a hire in African American history for the next academic year.

### **University Service**

I continued providing service to the University Community, serving as chair of the African Heritage Classroom Scholarship Committee, as a member of the Search Committee for the new Director of the University Library System, and as a member of the Undergraduate Committee of the Dietrich College of Arts & Sciences.

### **Community Service**

I continued my service to the larger Pittsburgh community. Continuing as a member of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation Board of Trustees, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Heinz History Center, a member of the African American Advisory Committee of the Heinz History Center, a member of the Mayor's Bicentennial Committee, and a member of the selection Committee for the next Curator of the Teenie Harris photographic collection at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

**2005-2006.** I served on the Board of Directors of the Heinz History Century and Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation; I served on the African American Advisory Committee of the Heinz History Center; I continued spreading the story of the Hill District and Teenie Harris, giving talks at the Frick Art Museum (November 6), Rodef Shalom (December 18), the Carnegie Museum of Art (February 23 and March 23), Pitt's Fine Arts Department (February 23), Friendship Village retirement community in Upper St. Clair (February 2), and in Prof. Christopher Rawson's class on August Wilson (March 27). These talks focused on the Teenie Harris photo representation of the Hill, but in several talks I included photographic material from the old Irene Kaufman Settlement House in order to spotlight the multi-racial story of the Hill. The number of talks attests to the substantial public interest in the topic of the Hill and of the photographs of Teenie Harris.

I continue my interest in race and caste in world perspective, and on May 14, I will give one of two keynote talks at the 115<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, considered the "Liberator of India's Untouchable Peoples." The conference takes place in San Jose, California, and is organized by the Ambedkarites of America.

### **Tours**

I promoted efforts to preserve what is left of the historic Hill District. Toward that end, I gave three tours of the Hill District. One was for Chris Rawson's class on August Wilson, another for a combined group of Young Professionals of the Urban League and the United Jewish Federation. On May 30 I gave a tour of the Hill for officers of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, during its national convention in October.

### **Community Service**



10/30/23

I continued my community service, being active in the local branch of the African American Historical and Genealogical Society, advising the Fine Arts Department regarding materials for a fall showing of African American art, serving on the Advisory Board of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and also on the Diversity Committee planning for the 2007 convention of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I also served, along with Joe Trotter of C-MU, as co-chair of the African American Advisory Committee to the Heinz History Center, and worked with the Center in planning an upcoming exhibit on black soldiers in the Vietnam War.

## **2000-2001**

### **University Service**

I was active in University service, serving on the PhD committees of Jesus Diaz Caballero (Hispanic Dept.), Abdul Mawjoud (English Dept.), Kent Engelhardt (Music Dept.), and Mike Sider (History Dept.). I served on the Preliminary and Overview committees of Greg Wood and Bill Conrad in the History Department. I helped recruit African American graduate students to the History Department. I was the facilitator for a Student Government Board Round Table on “Slavery and the Holocaust”. For the University minority recruitment efforts, I gave a presentation on “Minorities in Academe”, and I met with new students at orientation sessions. In March I made a presentation on design strategies of the African Heritage Classroom to the group planning a Latin American/Caribbean Nationality Classroom. I served on the Provost’s Advisory Board on Minority Concerns.

I served on a number of University committees, including the FAS Curriculum Review Committee, the Athlete Admission Committee, the CGS Advisory Board, Equipoise, the Faculty Advisory Board of Semester at Sea, an Ad Hoc Committee for Honors College/Urban Studies/CGS, the Cuba Studies Group of CLAS, and the Middle States Accreditation Committee.

### **Community Service**

I gave a number of other presentations and talks. In January I gave a series of lectures as Interport Lecturer for the Semester at Sea voyage to Cuba. In February, I gave an interview with the CIDDE staff concerning diversity in the classroom.

Most talks dealt with my Pittsburgh research. In March, I spoke at the Pitt Medical School to Residents on the social history of minority communities in Pittsburgh. In July, I spoke at the Monroeville Historical Society, in October at the First Baptist Church, in February at the College Club, and in April at the Pennsylvania Black History Conference. Other presentations at conferences involved being a panelist at the SSHA conference in October (“Computerizing the Pittsburgh Manuscript Census of 1860, 1860, 1870, and 1880”), the ASALH (Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) conference in September on “Constructing Race.”

I was particularly active in community service, serving on the Freedom Corner Advisory Committee of Council Sala Udin, as well as on the African Heritage Classroom Committee. I gave a presentation at the

10/30/23

Pittsburgh Urban League for students planning to visit Ghana last summer. I gave a tour of the African Heritage Classroom to students from Operation Better Block of Homewood.

I served as a consultant for Professor Mindy Fullilove, psychiatrist from Columbia University, who is doing research on the psychological impact of urban renewal.

As a member of the African American Advisory Committee of the Heinz History Center I worked to organize the annual Pennsylvania Black History Conference, which this year was held in Pittsburgh.

I was presented with a citizenship award for promoting interfaith relations by the Pittsburgh Islamic Center,

At the state level, I served on the Historic Preservation Board of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the African American Advisory Board of the PHMC (Pennsylvania History and Museum Commission).

In addition, I served as a member of the Executive Boards of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and the Heinz History Center. I served as co-chair of the African American Advisory Committee of the Heinz History Center. I worked with Burt Hill Planning Associates in producing a Master Plan for the Hill District, 2009-2010. I served on the Granada Theater Advisory Board, working to preserve and rehabilitate the Granada Theater in the Hill District, 2009. I served on the Teenie Harris Advisory Committee of the Carnegie Museum of Art, 2009. I conducted a Walking Tour of the Hill District for the Pittsburgh International Women's Association, 2009.

I worked with McNair Scholarship Students in planning college futures (June 2009). I edited, wrote the introduction, and helped publish *Your House of Beauty: The Long Hard Struggle*, the autobiography of Lillian Allen, a 103-year old Pittsburgh hair dresser (Self published, Pittsburgh, 2008). I conducted local research for for "Fly Boys: Tuskegee Airmen of Western Pennsylvania," a video produced by the University of Pittsburgh in 2008. I co-organized "Pittsburgh Blacks for Obama." I served as co-chair of the Historic Hill Initiative, dedicated to organizing community members to preserve historic sites in the Hill District. I continued working on the African Heritage Classroom Committee, recruiting and selecting candidates for scholarships to study in Africa. I served as web master for the African Heritage Classroom Committee and for *Islas, Journal of Afro-Cuban Issues*. I helped write the "Historic Survey of Hill District Sites Worth Preserving," using a grant from the Urban Redevelopment Authority and Pittsburgh Historic and Landmarks Foundation for a master list of sites in the Hill District and annotatng their historical and architectural significance. I served as consultant and resource person for the Heinz History Center, for "Pittsburgh Born/Pittsburgh Bred," part of the Heinz History Center's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Pittsburgh history.

## **AWARDS**

10/30/23

Because of my activities, I was featured in *Pitt Chronicle* (February 2, 2009) for community involvement.

2010 The Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award.

2010: Urban League, Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award

2010: Award from the African American Historical and Genealogical Society

2010: Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy, CMU, Outstanding Local Historian Award

2009: Pittsburgh Courier's "Men of Excellence" award

2009: The YWCA's "Racial Justice Award,"

2009: "Talk" magazine's "Black History Merit Award."

2009: YWCA Racial Justice Award

2009: International Association of Business Communicators Award

2009: Talk Magazine Black Achievers Award

2009: Courier Newspaper Men of Excellence Award

2008: African American Alumni Committee Sankofa Award

## **UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT SERVICE**

2020-2021: I made a presentation with Laura Lovett to minority high school students on doing historical research via the manuscript census and city directories; I secured the donation of the papers of Rob Penny (founder of Black Studies at Pitt) to the University Archives. (There will be a national, online zoom program featuring those papers on April 27, 2021.); I was the subject of a biographical sketch in "Silhouettes" by Pitt News; I served on the Faculty Advisory Board of the University Press. I currently serve on the Advisory Committee for the forthcoming celebration of Juneteenth by the University of Pittsburgh. I had one independent study, which resulted in a fine paper "Jewish Architectural Legacy in Pittsburgh's Hill District"

1984-1989: Chair, Concept and Design Committee, African Heritage Classroom

1997 Academic Dean, Semester at Sea Around-the-world-voyage

10/30/23

Planning co-chair for programming, National ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History) for its national convention to be held in Pittsburgh in 2005

Planning co-chair for the Pennsylvania Black History Conference, held at the University of Pittsburgh, 2008

**CONSULTANT**

NEH panel for funds for HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) 2007

Ken Love for film documentary on history of the Pittsburgh Courier (2007)

Heinz History Center, exhibit on black troops in Vietnam, "Soul Soldiers" (2007)

With Deryck Tines, exhibition on Pittsburgh black gay life and culture at the Warhol Museum (2007)