

HW W

HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK IN PEACE AND WAR
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

#HW2024





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INDIANA
COMMISSION
for women



Hoosier Women at Work is made possible by funding from Indiana Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional funding was provided by the Indiana Commission for Women, and the Indiana State Library Foundation.

Thank you to the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library for the donation of their building for our conference space.

The conference is presented by the Indiana Historical Bureau and the Indiana Association of Historians. (Keynote sponsors next page.)



INDIANA
ASSOCIATION
OF HISTORIANS

OVERLOOKED



KEYNOTE SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES



WOMEN'S FUND
OF CENTRAL INDIANA
* A CICY FUND

Amisha (Amy) Padnani's keynote presentation is made possible by grants from the Women's Fund of Central Indiana, Indiana Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thank you to the Madam Walker Legacy Center for the donation of their unique building space and to the Indiana State Library for contributing funds for event staff.

The Indiana Historical Bureau, Division of the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Association of Historians organized the event.

MADAM
WALKER
LEGACY CENTER



INDIANA
ASSOCIATION
OF HISTORIANS



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

8:30-9:00	REGISTRATION
9:00-9:15	WELCOME
9:30-10:30	SESSION ONE
10:45-11:45	SESSION TWO
11:45-12:45	LUNCH
1:00-2:00	KEYNOTE [@ WALKER]
2:30-3:30	SESSION THREE
3:30-4:00	EXPLORE THE MUSEUM



BALL STATE UNIVERSITY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

✓ about hoosier women at work

In March 2016 the first Hoosier Women at Work conference brought together students and scholars of women's history for a one-day event which featured papers, presentations, a keynote speaker, a panel discussion, and a lot of great ideas. The general consensus was that the conference was a much needed launching pad for those interested in growing the field of Midwestern women's history. In response, supporting partners and attending scholars have made this an ongoing meeting. Past events have focused on Indiana women making history in the fields of science, technology, and medicine, as well as in the arts. During the 2020 suffrage

centennial, we met to explore Hoosier women's work for suffrage and the ongoing struggle for equal citizenship rights. In 2022, we threw out the work altogether, and examined Hoosier women at play. We have also offered Wikipedia edit-a-thons and mini cons to keep the work thriving. This year, we are excited to welcome you to the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library. We can't wait to hear what you have to say on Hoosier Women at Work in Peace and War!

- HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK
PLANNING COMMITTEE



ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK IN PEACE AND WAR



This conference will combine historical research and discussion on the unique roles of women in peacebuilding and war efforts. Women's work has been undervalued throughout history by patriarchal economic, political, and social systems, hindering a fuller understating of peace and war studies. The 2024 Hoosier Women at Work Conference seeks to encourage fresh scholarship and dynamic discussion of how Indiana women impacted these larger global events and systems of power.

What has been the role of women working to eliminate violence? How are women of color and indigenous women potentially at work for peace in different ways? What unexplored roles have women taken on in times of war? How has colonization and war impacted women and girls? How did Hoosier women impact broader historical and current events? We encourage topics related to girls and women of color, indigenous women, women of immigrant origin, those who identify as LGBTQ, and women with disabilities.



SESSION ONE

EVANSVILLE VANDERBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL ARCHIVE

9:30-10:30



1A

SKY'S THE LIMIT? WOMEN IN AVIATION AND WARTIME MANUFACTURING

Moderator: Jeannie Regan-Dinius, Crown Hill Foundation

Raiderettes: The Evansville Women Who Built the P-47 Thunderbolt Fighter-bombers in WWII

Kelsey Green,
Indiana Historical Bureau, Division of the Indiana State Library

Doris Hurt Powers and Hoosier Women in Aviation: Overcoming Pay Inequities and Gender Discrimination to Pursue Her Passion

Alicia Venchuk,
Purdue University



SESSION ONE

9:30-10:30



1B DIPLOMACY AND ENDING VIOLENCE

Moderator: Kalita Lopez, Indiana Archives and Records Administration

Reverend Tanya Vonnegut Beck's
Crusade to Reduce Violence
Against Women via the Julian
Mission

Dr. Kathi Badertscher,
Indiana University, Indianapolis

"I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a
Soldier": May Wright Sewall and the
Ford Peace Ship

Ray E. Boomhower,
Indiana Historical Society Press

U.S. Ambassador Cynthia Helena
Norton Shepard-Perry's Indiana
Roots and Her Work with Women
Facing War in Sierra Leone and
Burundi

Dr. Angela J. Nealy,
United Nations, NGO ECOSOC



SESSION ONE

PURDUE ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

9:30-10:30



1C

EXPANDING THEIR REACH: RESEARCHING AND TEACHING WOMEN'S WORK ON CAMPUS

Moderator: Kate McGinn, Indiana State Library

Overlooked No More: Women in the Making of Purdue's History

Katey Watson,
Purdue Archives and Special Collections

Özgün Basmaz,
Purdue Archives and Special Collections

Teaching about Gender and Work in Indiana in Precarious Times

Dr. Aimee N. Zoeller,
Indiana University Columbus

A Different Education: How the Work for Women's Suffrage influenced College Women's Identities

Josie Lyons,
Franklin College



SESSION TWO

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY DIGITAL MEDIA REPOSITORY

10:45-11:45



2A RACE, RIGHTS, AND ROOM: WWII AS OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLEGE WOMEN

Moderator: Casey Pfeiffer, Indiana Historical Bureau,
Division of the Indiana State Library

**Volunteers and Victory Red:
The Women of Ball State and
World War II**

Melissa Gentry,
Ball State University Libraries

**Doris Faulkner Stewart in Her Own
Words: The Black Experience at Ball
State during World War II**

Sara McKinley,
Muncie Public Library



SESSION TWO

10:45-11:45

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



2B COLONIZATION AND INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE

Moderator: Dr. Rachel Wheeler, Indiana University
Indianapolis

Peggy and Mekinges Conner:
Intersecting Paths with Settler
Colonialism in Early Indiana

Hiba Alalami,
Indiana University Indianapolis

Caroline Emenaker,
Indiana University Indianapolis

Homemaking and Nation-Building:
The Domestic Labor of Maggie
Wylie Mellette

Mary Figueroa,
Indiana State Museum and Historic
Sites



SESSION TWO

10:45-11:45

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS, NEWSPAPERS.COM



2C

AFTER THE WAR: CARING FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

Moderator: Victoria Duncan, Indiana State Library

Dorothy Cortner and the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children Home, 1923-1962

Meaghan Jarnecke,
Indiana Archives and Records Administration

Ida Strawn Baker: The Resilience of an Interwar Era Widow

Sarah Wulf,
Indiana University Indianapolis



lunch!

DIGITAL INDY, INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

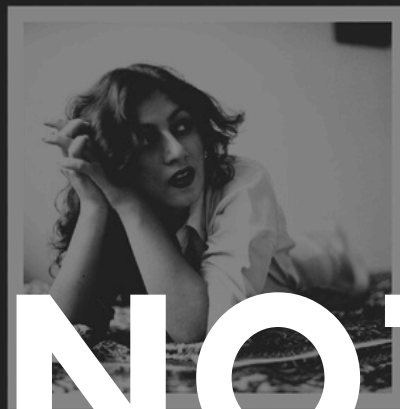
11:45-12:45

EAT AND EXPLORE THE KURT VONNEGUT MUSEUM AND LIBRARY



The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library champions the literary, artistic, and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist, teacher, and Indianapolis native Kurt Vonnegut. The library and museum serve as a cultural and educational resource unique to the nation.

KVML houses artifacts, art, a museum store, and books related to Vonnegut. When you visit KVML, you'll be able to see Vonnegut's typewriter, Purple Heart, reading glasses, artwork, and other personal items loaned by the family. We also house original exhibits related to Vonnegut and galleries dedicated to veteran artists. The KVML is not only a building full of artifacts. We strive to be a community asset, offering classes, workshops, and a gathering space for our neighbors on Indiana Ave., Indianapolis, and beyond.



KEYNOTE

**MADAM
WALKER**
LEGACY CENTER

1:00-2:15 MADAM WALKER LEGACY CENTER

HWW is proud to welcome Amisha (Amy) Padnani, an award-winning senior staff editor at *The New York Times* and creator of the Overlooked project, to the Madam Walker Legacy Center.

OVERLOOKED

A Celebration of Remarkable,
Underappreciated People Who Broke
the Rules and Changed the World

Overlooked tells the stories of remarkable women and people of color whose deaths were never reported by *The New York Times* in its 168-year history. After joining The Times's obituaries desk as an editor, Padnani noticed that the section was dominated by white men and sought ways to balance its coverage. Overlooked launched in 2018 with the stories of 15 women, and has since included people of color and subjects from the LGBTQ and disability communities.

Her *Overlooked* book, published in November 2023, features 66 Overlooked obituaries, about two dozen of which never appeared in *The Times*. Get your copy of Overlooked at the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library gift shop.



Padnani's speaking engagements have included TED, Creative Mornings, the National Museum for Women in the Arts, the Dead Ladies Show, Dropbox, Button, and other organizations. She has been interviewed by NPR, Democracy Now, CBC, CBS, and the BBC. She was named Incredible Woman of the Year by *Porter Magazine* in 2018.



SESSION THREE

2:30-3:30

ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



3A JUSTICE, DEFENSE, AND THE HOMEFRONT Moderator: Sarah Halter, Medical History Museum

Leveraging the Underutilized WWI Women’s Census Registration for Your Own Work

Amber Oldenburg,
Brigham Young University-Idaho

“Fighting Crime and City Hall:” Examining Indianapolis Policewomen’s Efforts During Wartime

Patrick Pearsey,
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Archives



SESSION THREE

INDIANA ALBUM

2:30-3:30



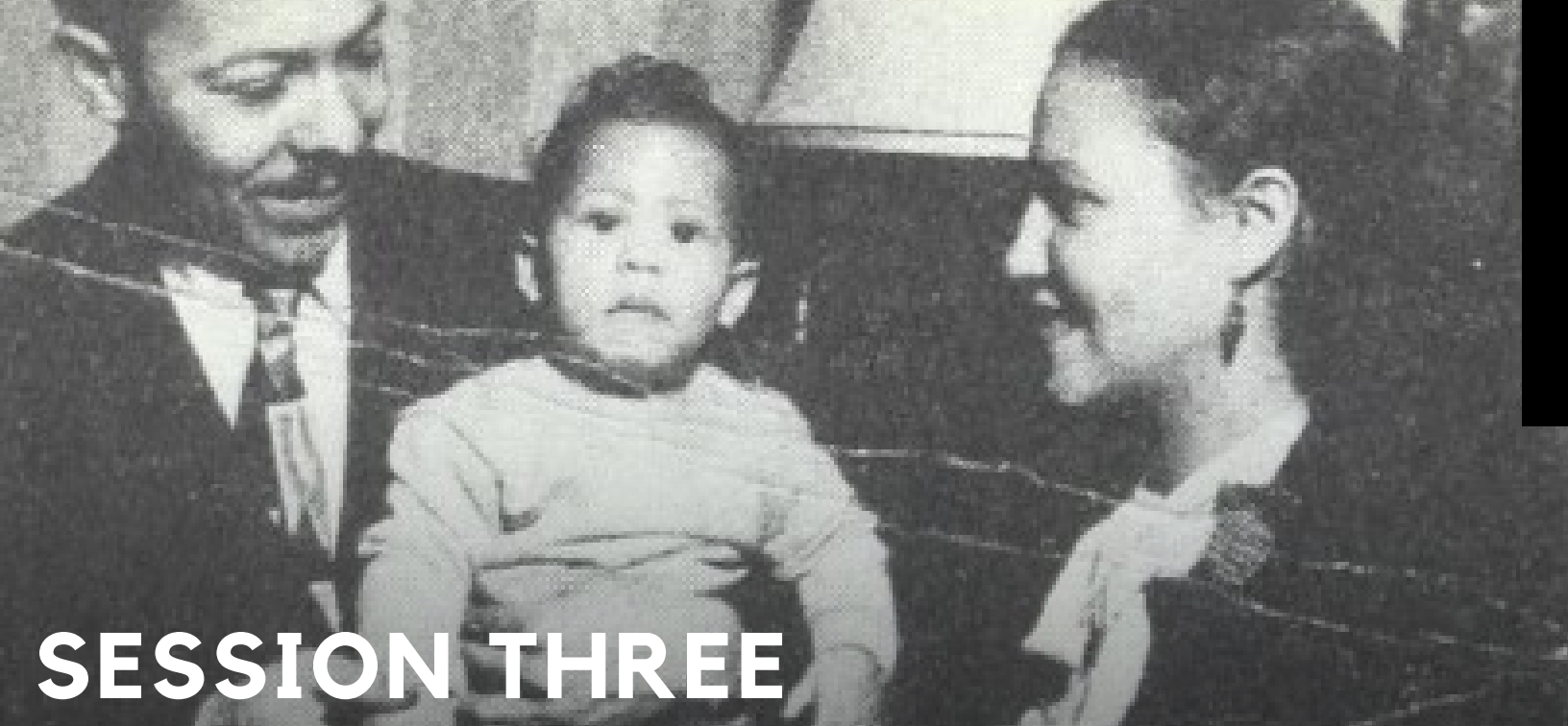
3B COMPASSION AND SENSORY-DRIVEN STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Lauren Peightel,
Indiana Historical Society

“Women’s lives centered on the home and family, and their common experiences, and their common experiences were demonstrated through the remarkable similarity in their journals, letters, memories and reminiscences.” - Katherine Scott Sturdevant

Peightel’s research method provides an achievable steppingstone between gathering standard historical or genealogical data, and sharing, writing, telling or performing captivating stories. Its purpose is to inspire research from a series of thoughtful sensory- and experience-driven focused questions pointing to non-traditional sources to answer those questions.

Starting from a place of compassion and empathy can help create a stronger sense of connectedness and belonging in those who learn these stories. Sensory-based exploration in our research adds a connection, a close person-to-person connection to others that defies time and space, and record availability.



SESSION THREE

2:30-3:30

EDWARD BALL, SWEET HELL INSIDE, ACCESSED INTERNET ARCHIVE



3C WOMEN'S WORK AND RIGHTS

Moderator: Susan Hall Dotson, Indiana Historical Society

The Rabble Rouser and the
Hoosier Senator: The
Political Alliance of Mother
Jones and John W. Kern

Justin Clark,
Indiana Historical Bureau,
Division of the Indiana State
Library

The Intersections of
Journalism: The Life of
Edwina Harleston Whitlock
and her Fight for Black
Equality via the "Gary
American"

Emily McGuire,
Indiana Historical Bureau,
Division of the Indiana State
Library

SAY HI TO THE

HWW PLANNING COMMITTEE



< Jill Weiss Simins, Historian, Indiana Historical Bureau, Division of the Indiana State Library

> Dr. Michella Marino, Deputy Director, Indiana Historical Bureau, Division of the Indiana State Library; Communications Director, Indiana Association of Historians



< Nicole Poletika, Historian, Indiana Historical Bureau, Division of the Indiana State Library

> Jeannie Regan-Dinius, Director of Historic Preservation, Crown Hill Foundation



< Kisha Tandy, Curator of Social History, Indiana State Museum

> Dr. Daniella Kostroun, Director, Department of History; Associate Professor of History, Indiana University, Indianapolis; Treasurer, Indiana Association of Historians





UNTOLD INDIANA

an Indiana history blog from the
INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU
division of the Indiana State Library

Get your work out there! The Untold Indiana Blog invites you to become a guest writer. Submit a 800-1600 word article based on your original research to Editor Nicole Poletika: NPoletika@library.IN.gov.

blog.history.in.gov



let's get to work!

HARRISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



THANK YOU HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK SPEAKERS AND ATTENDEES!

Don't forget to send your papers to the Indiana Historical Bureau for the HWW website.

Email papers to Nicole Poletika: NPoletika@library.IN.gov

Follow and stay in touch with IHB for information about upcoming workshops, edit-a-thons, and mini-cons: www.facebook.com/IndianaHistoricalBureau

Or send us direct feedback about the conference here:

