

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MATTATUCK MUSEUM

ARTS & HISTORY CENTER

144 West Main St. Waterbury, CT 06702

www.MattatuckMuseum.org

MORE THAN MEMORIES

Oral History Workshop at Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center

The Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center will offer a daylong oral history training workshop on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm. Led by historian Jeremy Brecher, Ph.D. and University of Connecticut Professor Ruth Glasser, Ph. D., this informative workshop is designed to provide guidance to historical society members, museum professionals, and anyone else interested in launching their own oral history project.

The workshop will use a combination of lecture and participation to put oral history into perspective as a method of gathering history, train participants in oral history interviewing techniques, and generate ideas about the larger community history projects of which oral history can form a part. Components of the workshop will include: discussion of oral history's purpose and methodology, examination of the different components involved in designing and carrying out an oral history project, practice with interviewing equipment, role playing interviews and assessment of role playing experiences, and discussion and examination of final products that are outcomes of oral history projects.

Presented during the workshop will be examples of community-based oral history work. The workshop will utilize the book and movie *Brass Valley*; projects conducted by Dr. Glasser's UConn students, and websites and curriculum materials done by the Mattatuck Museum.

Jeremy Brecher has been doing oral history for 40 years. He is the author of *History from Below: How to Uncover and Tell the Story of Your Community, Association, or Union* and of *Brass Valley*, the oral-history based book and movie on the Naugatuck Valley brass workers. For many years he was humanities scholar in-residence at Connecticut Public Radio and television, where he hosted the oral history radio show REMEMBERING CONNECTICUT.

Ruth Glasser is Lecturer in and Coordinator of Urban and Community Studies at the University of Connecticut/Waterbury Campus. She received her Ph.D. in American Studies in 1991 from Yale University. Since then she has worked on publications, music festivals, museum exhibits, documentaries, curriculum materials, and other projects related to the Puerto Rican and Latino communities of New York, Connecticut, and other parts of New England. Dr. Glasser has used oral history extensively in her publications, has participated in numerous oral history projects and routinely trains college students in oral history methods.

Those interested in attending must pre-register by Friday, April 16 by contacting Cathy Filippone at 203-753-0381 ext. 10. The \$35 registration fee includes lunch from the museum's BMuse Cafe. Funded in part by the Connecticut Humanities Council, the workshop will be held at the Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center, 144 West Main Street. Free parking is available in any of the lots on Park Place behind the museum.