

**2020 SABR Annual Report  
Appendix 2: Committee Reports**

**Asian Baseball Research Committee**

Committee Membership count: 108 members (*per directory search conducted May 2020*)

Members and friends of the SABR Asian Baseball Committee contributed to the following live events/papers, publications, special projects and digital media activities that enhanced our collective knowledge of Asian baseball in 2019-2020. Annual highlights include:

**LIVE EVENTS, MEETINGS, PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS**

**Library of Congress - May 9, 2019 – Washington, DC**

Playing and Talking about Baseball Across the Pacific. Panel members:

- Robert K. Fitts, SABR
- William W. Kelly, professor of sociocultural anthropology, Yale University
- Chandra Manning, professor of U.S. history, Georgetown University
- Bill Staples, Jr., SABR

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iStHNYkwHMA>

**SABR 49 - June 26-30, 2019 - San Diego, CA**

- Gentle Black Giants: A History of Negro Leaguers in Japan, by Bill Staples Jr.
- Trapped in America: How the Masanori Murakami Debacle Redefined U.S.-Japan Baseball Relations, by John Carvalho

Link: <https://sabr.org/convention/sabr49-presentations>

- [Asian Baseball](#) Committee Meeting: Guest speakers: Rob Fitts on "Finding Naito" and John Carvalho on "The Masanori Murakami Debacle".

Link: <https://sabr.org/convention/sabr49-committees>

- [Baseball Cards](#) Committee Meeting: Guest speaker: Rob Fitts

Link: <https://sabr.org/convention/sabr49-committees>

**Chandler Museum - November 5, 2019 – Chandler, AZ**

- *History Bites Lunchtime Talk - Baseball at Gila River, Bill Staples, Jr.*

**Japan-America Society – February 13, 2020 – Dallas, TX**

*Japanese and American Experts Discuss the Role of Baseball In U.S.-Japan Relations. Panel members:*

- *Robert Fitts, a baseball historian and award-winning writer*
- *Kazuhiro Gomi, President and CEO of NTT Research, Inc.;*
- *Karin Morris, Vice President, Community Outreach with the Texas Rangers Baseball Club and Executive Director, Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation*

- *Matt Murton, baseball operations staff with the Chicago Cubs Baseball Club and a former professional baseball player in the U.S. and Japan.*  
Link: <http://jasdfw.org/blog/japanese-and-american-experts-to-discuss-the-role-of-baseball-in-u-s-japan-relations/>

## **NINE Conference - MARCH 6, 2020 – Tempe, AZ**

### The Hideo Nomo Session

- Bill Staples, Jr., “Early Baseball Encounters in the West: The Yeddo Royal Japanese Troupe Play Ball in America, 1872”
- Rob Fitts, “Scapegoat!: How the First Japanese Professional Ball Player was Framed as a Spy”
- John Harney, “Oh Sadaharu: A Japanese Baseball Legend in the Cold War”

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS/EVENTS**

### **Research & Exhibits**

- Arizona Capitol Museum exhibit, 2019 – Contributed research and artifacts
- Chandler Museum exhibit: Gaman: Enduring Japanese American Internment at Gila River – Contributed research and artifacts, <https://www.chandleraz.gov/explore/arts-and-culture/chandler-museum/exhibits>
- National Baseball Hall of Fame, loan of Zenimura homeplate by Bill Staples, Jr., artifact caretaker, <https://baseballhall.org/discover/a-field-of-dreams-in-the-arizona-desert>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Newsletter**

SABR Asian Baseball Committee: Spring 2020 newsletter  
<https://sabr.org/content/asian-baseball-committee-spring-2020-newsletter>

### **Books**

Robert K. Fitts, *Issei Baseball, The Story of the First Japanese American Ballplayers*, University of Nebraska Press, April 2020. <https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/nebraska/9781496213488/>

John J. Harney, *Empire of Infields: Baseball in Taiwan and Cultural Identity, 1895-1968*, by University of Nebraska Press, July 2019.  
<https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/nebraska/9780803286825/>

### **Podcasts/Articles/Blogs**

FOX Sports Arizona - Diamond Diaries: Japanese Internment camps and America's pastime, May 2020.  
<https://anchor.fm/fsaz/episodes/Diamond-Diaries-Japanese-Internment-camps-and-Americas-pastime-eeho3s>

Robert Fitts at Home: On Writing and Japanese Baseball History, UNP Blog, April 2020.  
<https://unpblog.com/2020/04/27/robert-fitts-at-home-on-writing-and-japanese-baseball-history/>

Sanji Sakamoto: A Japanese American Ballplayer in the Negro Leagues, International Pastime, March 2020.  
<http://billstaples.blogspot.com/2020/03/sanji-sakamoto-japanese-american.html>

Book Excerpt: Issei Baseball: The Story of the First Japanese American Baseball Players, Sports Illustrated, April 16, 2020. <https://www.si.com/mlb/dodgers/news/book-excerpt-issei-baseball-the-story-of-the-first-japanese-american-baseball-players>

Book Review — ‘Issei Baseball’, JQ Magazine, April 28, 2020.  
<https://jetaany.org/2020/04/28/jq-magazine-book-review-issei-baseball/>

Celebrating the legacy of Negro Leaguers in Japan, Ryan Whirty, April 2020.  
<https://homeplatedontmove.wordpress.com/2020/04/18/celebrating-the-legacy-of-negro-leaguers-in-japan/>

Even Behind Barbed Wire, Fresno Baseball Legend Kenichi Zenimura Broke Barriers, Valley Public Radio, February 2020.  
<https://www.kvpr.org/post/even-behind-barbed-wire-fresno-baseball-legend-kenichi-zenimura-broke-barriers>

Gentle Black Giants': Diplomacy, sport and Japan's early love for baseball, Japan Times, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2019/06/29/books/diplomacy-sport-japans-early-love-baseball/#.XtJ9KjpKiUk>

Review of Gentle Black Giants, by Leslie Heaphy, Sport in American History, July 2019.  
<https://ussporthistory.com/2019/07/20/review-of-gentle-black-giants/>

Early Baseball Encounters in the West: The Yeddo Royal Japanese Troupe Play Ball in America, 1872, Bill Staples, Jr., International Pastime, July 2019.  
<http://billstaples.blogspot.com/2019/07/early-baseball-encounters-in-west-yeddo.html>

Baseball & Barbed Wire, American Innings, with Marty Lurie, July 2019  
[https://www.americaninnings.org/baseball-and-barbed-wire/?fbclid=IwAR1asufd8-jwdRuI9Hd7WJM0oFXUduXxU2f7Wg6f9Y6pnrtqena-k\\_Ycl3A](https://www.americaninnings.org/baseball-and-barbed-wire/?fbclid=IwAR1asufd8-jwdRuI9Hd7WJM0oFXUduXxU2f7Wg6f9Y6pnrtqena-k_Ycl3A)

### **Book Research/Projects on the Horizon**

- Flinder Boyd, (flinderboyd.com) – Nisei Ballplayers Tryout with 1943 Brooklyn Dodgers
- Rob Fitts – An Illustrated Introduction to Japanese Baseball Cards, self-published book
- Seung Chan Lee (fangraphs.com) – U.S. team visits to Korea, pre-WWII (newspaper research and translation)

- Jon Leonoudakis (jonleonoudakis.com) – Lefty O’Doul documentary
- Bill Staples, Jr. – Japanese acrobats and baseball, 1870s-1910s

## DIGITAL

### Social media

- Asian Baseball Community, <https://www.facebook.com/asianbaseball>
- Nisei Baseball Research Project, <https://www.facebook.com/niseibaseball>

### Websites & Blogs

- Gary Ashwill (Multi-ethnic Baseball) <http://agatetype.typepad.com/>
- Patrick Bourgo (Korean Baseball) <http://myso-calledresearch.blogspot.kr/>
- Gary Cieradkowski (Multi-ethnic Baseball) <http://infinitecardset.blogspot.com/>
- Rob Fitts (Japanese & Nikkei Baseball) <http://blog.robfitts.com/>
- Kerry Yo Nakagawa (Nikkei Baseball) <http://www.niseibaseball.com>
- Bill Staples Jr. (Multi-ethnic Baseball) <http://www.zenimura.com>

## SABR Awards

- **Robert Peterson Recognition Award**, SABR Negro Leagues Committee/Jerry Malloy Conference Award – Winner, Kazuo Sayama & Bill Staples, Jr., *Gentle Black Giants: A History of Negro Leaguers in Japan*. Dec 2019 <https://sabr.org/research/negro-leagues-research-committee-newsletters>
- **Jefferson Burdick Award**, *SABR Baseball Cards Research Committee* – Finalist Robert Fitts, for his unmatched expertise and research in the area of Japanese baseball cards. <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2020/02/29/burdick-award-finalists/>.
- **McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award** – Winner, Bill Staples Jr., "[Early Baseball Encounters in the West: The Yeddo Royal Japanese Troupe Play Ball in America, 1872.](https://sabr.org/latest/baccellieri-staples-vandemortel-win-2020-mcfarland-sabr-baseball-research-awards)" *International Pastime*, July 18, 2019. <https://sabr.org/latest/baccellieri-staples-vandemortel-win-2020-mcfarland-sabr-baseball-research-awards>.

And a special congratulations to **Rob Fitts** for his selection in *SABR 50 at 50, The Society for American Baseball Research’s Fifty Most Essential Contributions to the Game*. His article, *Babe Ruth and Eiji Sawamura*, first published in the Spring 2012 *Baseball Research Journal*, will be included in the special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication scheduled for release in September 2020 by the University of Nebraska Press.

— **Bill Staples Jr.**

## **Ballparks Research Committee**

The June 2019 issue of "Palaces of the Fans" included a Convention focus with information on the Ballparks Committee meeting at SABR 49 in addition to Green Cathedrals entries on the two ballparks in San Diego used for major league games. Dan Fields looked at the Top Ten Leaders in many categories in all major league ballparks and Bill Lamb told the story of Harrison Park in Harrison, NJ.

The December 2019 issue of "Palaces of the Fans" included an article by Jim Nitz and Ron Selter on Milwaukee's Wright Street Grounds, a history by Bill Lamb of Wiedenmayer's Park in Newark, and a review by Richard Smiley of Paul Goldberger's book "Ballpark: Baseball in the American City."

Green Cathedrals Fifth Edition was issued to all SABR members as an ebook in March 2020. The Fifth Edition covers 583 MLB and Negro League ballparks. Only parks used in regular season games are included. Note there were 20 parks used by both MLB and the Negro Leagues.

We have almost 4,000 members on our SABR Ballparks Facebook page, and almost 600 followers on the SABR Ballparks twitter feed.

The SABR Ballpark Committee Minor League Ballparks Project still needs a volunteer leader, and is on hold at the moment.

— **Ron Selter and Kevin Johnson**

## **Baseball and the Arts Research Committee**

The Baseball and the Arts Research Committee held its most recent meeting at the SABR Annual Conference in San Diego on Saturday, June 29, 2019. Co-chairs, Joanne Hulbert and Jay Hurd introduced the new Baseball and the Arts journal, *Turnstyle*.

This first issue numbered 64 pages, and included poetry, cartoons, reminiscences, illustrations, and more by multiple — contemporary and late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries — contributors. This new journal presents literature and visual arts from the early days of baseball, with pieces by legendary figures such as Hugh E. Keough; it also encourages and introduces new creative voices and ideas.

With many thanks to Cecilia Tan, SABR Publications Director, Issue No. 1 of *Turnstyle* overcame publication challenges, and the Arts Committee looks forward to presenting Issue No. 2 in the summer of 2020, and Issue No. 3 in 2021. Feedback from SABR members has been very positive, and all are welcome to submit original pieces for consideration.

Sadly, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the SABR Annual Conference scheduled for July 2020 has been cancelled. Therefore, the Baseball and the Arts Committee, as other SABR committees, will not meet again until SABR Annual 2021 in Baltimore. At that time, discussion of ideas and proposals will recommence with *Turnstyle* as a focal point. Other projects for consideration include the promotion of Baseball and the Arts through a more visible presence at SABR Annual. For example, and necessarily consulting with SABR to understand more completely parameters of time, space, interest, etc., the committee would like to present brief theatrical, literary, or comic performances to entertain, and to celebrate the past, present and future of baseball and the arts, highlighting cultural and personal points of view.

The Baseball and Arts Committee remains committed to discussing and sharing art, in its many components, and research with SABR at the national level, and with individual SABR chapters and members.

— **Joanne Hulbert and Jay Hurd**

## **Baseball and the Media Research Committee**

The SABR Baseball and the Media Research Committee has just completed its seventh year of existence.

The Baseball and the Media Research Committee strives to conduct and publicly provide research pertaining to baseball coverage by the media (i.e., the story of baseball journalism and its impact on the evolution of the game as a cultural and commercial phenomenon) and as an event (i.e., the story of the in-game coverage of baseball games, from telegraph to radio to television to internet and social media).

The committee has 226 members as of May 31, 2020.

We continue to maintain four key databases:

- Major League Baseball Broadcaster/Flagship, detailing all radio and TV flagship stations as well as broadcasters for each MLB team back to 1921. This database is currently being updated through the 2018 season.
- Network TV Broadcasts, with details for every one of those back to 1947. This database is maintained independently by committee member Tony Miller.
- Radio Station Affiliates, for every MLB team starting with 2013.
- Baseball Writers, a database of beat writers, columnist and sports editors stretching back to 1909 that commenced late in the summer of 2017, with the help of several volunteers.

At the 2019 SABR Convention (SABR 49) in San Diego, Steve Klein, professor emeritus at George Mason University and veteran journalist, spoke on “How Hugh Fullerton Created an Ethical Impulse in Sports Writing.”

The committee provides relevant baseball media content through its website, SABRmedia.org, and we continue to maintain our Twitter feed @MediaSABR, which is used primarily to inform followers of new content as well as tweet and retweet interesting items related to baseball media, as well as baseball in general.

The committee’s goal is to continue to build on the content it has developed and identify other projects that will spark interest and activity of SABR members who have signed up for the Baseball and the Media Research Committee, and also of other SABR members who have interest in contributing to the building of a rich and substantial store of information, analysis, insight and reference material about baseball media. In particular, committee members hope to interest members of other SABR research committees to undertake projects or feature stories that contemplate the baseball media angle to the committee of which they are already a member.

— **Chad Osborne**

### **Baseball Cards Research Committee**

The past twelve months have seen remarkable growth and interest in the SABR Baseball Cards Research Committee, as evidenced by the following:

#### **SABR Baseball Cards blog**

- More than 100 new articles published, bringing our total to 571.
- 19 new first-time authors, including at least 10 who joined SABR primarily to write for the blog
- Approximately 9,000 unique page views per month, representing a roughly 50% increase over the prior 12 months

#### **Social Media**

- Increased followers of @SABRbbcards Twitter account 60%, from approximately 4500 to 7200
- Named one of the [50 best baseball-themed Twitter accounts](#) by The Athletic (May 26, 2020)

- More than a dozen new posts per day on Facebook group SABR Baseball Cards

### **Expertise**

- SABR Baseball Cards blog post by member and blog author Matt Prigge referenced by Deadspin in [Bo Jackson article](#) (May 6, 2020)
- Co-chair Nick Vossbrink selected as judge by the Athletic for article on [most iconic sports cards ever](#) (May 18, 2020)
- Co-chair Jason Schwartz selected as judge by the Athletic for article on [eBay sports memorabilia challenge](#) (May 19, 2020)
- Member and blog author Jeff Katz featured by the Athletic in article on [sports card fraud](#) (May 22, 2020)

### **Events**

- Collaborated with celebrity artist Gummy Arts on 1919 White Sox baseball card set for distribution at 2019 Black Sox Scandal Centennial Symposium
- Hosted #StayHomeWithSABR virtual book tour event with Brad Balukjian, author of "The Wax Pack"
- Hosted #StayHomeWithSABR event with Matt Haynes, founder of the T206 Photo Project

### **Awards**

- Launched Jefferson Burdick Award for Contributions to the Hobby and named Mike Aronstein as first recipient

### **Membership**

- 360 current members as of June 1, 2020 (figure at same time last year unknown)

— **Nick Vossbrink and Jason Schwartz**

## **Baseball Records Research Committee**

The Baseball Records Committee was created in 1975 to help reconcile differences and pursue a greater degree of accuracy in baseball's "historical record." The word "record," as we use it, has two meanings. We use it in the sense that some player, or some team, has the most or least of something for an inning, or a game, or a season, etc. For example, Red Schoendienst holds the Major League record for Most doubles in three consecutive games, with 6.

We also use the word record to refer to a player's game-by-game, season-by-season and lifetime accomplishments. For example, Baltimore' Scott McGregor allowed 34 home runs in 1985; or Jim Viox had 24 triples in his major league career. Both aspects of baseball's historical record are of equal importance to us, and we are as diligent with regard to accuracy for the "unknown" players as we are for the Hall of Famers.

Beginning with our formation, committee members have contributed countless corrections, additions, and deletions to the record books. Over the past few years the major source of these



changes have come from the work done by the volunteers at *Retrosheet*. Our ultimate goal of finding all the errors in the historic record, or at least achieving a full reconciliation of differences among all the record books and encyclopedias, remains unlikely; nevertheless, we will continue to pursue a narrowing of the gap. Our role as SABR's Baseball Records Committee is strictly to make the numbers as accurate as we can.

In 2020 news: the Records Committee held its annual meeting at the 2019 SABR Convention in San Diego. Because the Chair could not attend, longtime active member Herm Krabbenhoft filled in to lead the meeting and also made a presentation of recent research. The 2020 Convention has now been postponed to 2021, but I expect the future Records Committee meeting will be well attended with an interesting presentation or two.

The Committee newsletter has continued its quarterly publication format, still containing the usual interesting lists and recent research that have filled its pages for many years.

— **Trent McCotter**

### **Biographical Research Committee**

Once again, the biographical committee has managed to find several missing players. We found James Cavanagh, an old National Association player. We found Robert Maloney, an 1876 player previously known as John Maloney. We found Thomas Tinney, a player on the 1884 Washington Union Association team, a team that was full of mysterious players. Edward Kent, a one game pitcher with Toledo in 1884, was also found. Another one game pitcher we were able to find was William Sullivan of the 1884 St. Louis Maroons.

Fred Osborne was a player that we knew died in Washington in 1905, but were unable to locate the exact date. We were finally able to locate the date and move Osborne to "found" status. Yet another one game player was Michael "Fancy" O'Neil who played with Hartford in 1874, and we were able to locate him.

Frank Monroe played twice as many games as O'Neil, Kent, and Sullivan. He played two games with Indianapolis in 1884 with the key to the find learning that he was born as Frank Metcalf.

George Blackburn had a long baseball career as an umpire despite playing only five major league games. It was always baffling that we were unable to find him as he seemed to disappear after 1930. We eventually were able to find his 1938 death in Oklahoma City.

Finally, Tommy Murray was another one gamer, getting into one game at shortstop for Philadelphia in 1894. He died in Columbus, Ohio in 1939. We are now down to 157 missing players.

— **Bill Carle**

## BioProject Research Committee

### Leadership

Rory Costello and Gregory Wolf became co-heads of the committee at the end of 2016. Rory maintains his role as Chief Editor. He coordinates with Gregory and other key committee members on questions that may arise. Gregory also remains closely involved in day-to-day operations, for example, with coordination of final posting once the review process is complete. He also continues to publicize assignments that have been freed. These are the result of an ongoing campaign to monitor requests taken on but not completed.

### Volume

The number of biographies remains impressive. As of this writing, there are 5,200 bios on the site, up from 4,900 last year. The base of authors has also widened. More books have been published in 2019 and 2020. Another book with Latin American subjects – Dominican players – is being translated into Spanish, and the intent is to present a book on Venezuelans in both languages too. Various other books are in the works. However, new book projects are now subject to approval, limiting their number.

### Review Workflow

*Vetting:* In March 2019, we added a new first stage to the review process — vetting — as part of the ongoing effort to maintain high standards of quality. This process is working well but more qualified vetters are needed to keep pace with new submissions.

*Fact-checking:* This phase of the operation, which now comes after the initial vetting, also remains a smooth process. Chris Rainey succeeded Warren Corbett as head of the team in October 2019. Chris has no big suggestions or complaints, although the process takes somewhat longer than he'd anticipated. Anyone willing to help should contact Chris at [chisrai@msn.com](mailto:chisrai@msn.com).

*Editing:* Still generally works well. We continue to add new and well-qualified reviewers. However, still more would be desirable. Even with the broader team, the load could be shared more widely. Turnaround time could also be improved. Technical capability of certain authors remains an opportunity for improvement. “Tip sheets” with instructions remain available on the BioProject resources page.

### Committee Newsletter

Andrea Long remains editor. The two most recent issues were published in November 2019 and May 2020.

### Social Media

Our presence in this area continues to increase. Follow the BioProject on Facebook (2,600 people do now):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129878527118723/>

J.G. Preston continues to serve as our resident Facebook guru, offering frequent posts highlighting biographies. These continue to draw plenty of interest and interaction. We encourage you to “like” and “share” the posts. We'd still be happy to see more members become active and post their own comments.

We kicked off the Twitter feed in mid-January 2017. As of the beginning of May 2020, there were approximately 10,600 followers, surpassing the goal of 10,000 we set last year. That's a 51% increase from around 7,000 this time last year.

Follow us @SABRbioproject. Like and especially retweet our tweets and help promote SABR

### **Hyperlinking**

We'd welcome new volunteers to the group (overseen by Gregory) that is retroactively inserting hyperlinks into all previously published bios on the BioProject website. There are only a few people doing this actively.

### **Areas to address: bottlenecks**

We're still encouraging more bios to be written, so we must continue to consider whether the volunteer infrastructure is adequate. Even now we need more vetters, editors, and fact-checkers – qualified people who do a thorough job. Authors can in some cases do more to format, edit, and fact-check their own work before submission. BioProject Resources web pages have been updated.

Updating the page concerning endnote format remains a target area.

We'll reiterate our conclusion from last year: if capacity remains as it is and volume increases, then authors must recognize that turnaround time will be longer – at each stage of the process. Quality standards have been buttressed and won't erode.

— **Rory Costello and Gregory Wolf**

## **Black Sox Scandal Research Committee**

From the launch of our Eight Myths Out project to the chart-topping *Infamous America* podcast series to an ESPN *Backstory* documentary, it seems everyone was interested in learning more about the 1919 World Series during the past year. Thanks to the hard work of so many members of the SABR Black Sox Scandal Research Committee — most especially Bill Lamb, Rick Huhn, Bruce Allardice, Bill Felber, and Mike Nola — we were fully prepared for the onslaught of attention from the media and the general public around the world.

Our committee members played a huge role in shaping the media narrative of the Black Sox Scandal in 2019, with features and profiles by the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Athletic*, ESPN.com, PBS NewsHour, the Associated Press and United Press International, NPR's "Only A Game," CBC Radio's "Sunday Edition," *L'Equipe*, the *National Post*, *Newsday*, Fox Sports Ohio, *Cincinnati Magazine*, *Baseball Prospectus*, and many other outlets.

Committee chair Jacob Pomrenke was also fortunate to be invited on a number of baseball podcasts and radio shows to talk about our committee's work, including "SABRcast" with Rob Neyer, MLB Network Radio's "Behind the Numbers: Baseball SABR Style" with Vince Gennaro, "Effectively Wild" with Ben Lindbergh, "WARP in Cincinnati" with C. Trent Rosecrans, "Baseball by the Book" with Justin McGuire, "The Ringer MLB Show" with Michael Baumann, NBC Chicago's "White Sox Talk" with Chuck Garfien and Chris Kamka, "Badder Beats" with Brant James, "Sox Machine" with Jim Margalus, and "This Week in Baseball History" with Michael Bates and Bill Parker.

The attention all culminated with our spectacular SABR Black Sox Scandal Centennial Symposium at the Chicago History Museum on September 28, 2019 — a truly once-in-a-century event! We had a distinguished lineup of panelists and presenters, including Pomrenke, Lamb, Huhn, and Allardice, along with David Pietrusza, Daniel Nathan, Bill Savage, Susan Dellinger, Michael Hauptert, and Kevin Braig, who helped put the story into context and provided insight on our collective understanding of the scandal to a capacity crowd of more than 200 people.

It's a testament to how much people still care about this story 100 years later and how much we're still learning about the Black Sox Scandal.

Our SABR committee also played a key role in the success of the *Infamous America* podcast series, which hit No. 1 on Apple Podcasts' history charts and had more than 250,000 listeners tune in during its run to hear about the 1919 World Series. Produced and hosted by Chris Wimmer of Black Barrel Media, Season 2 of the *Infamous America* series ran from August 7 to September 25, 2019, with a weekly six-episode narrative arc of the Black Sox Scandal. Pomrenke worked behind the scenes as a technical adviser to help shape the story of the 1919 World Series using the best available research. SABR's *Scandal on the South Side* book was used as source material and the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee was acknowledged in each episode. In bonus episodes, Pomrenke was interviewed about the Eight Myths Out project and Mike Nola of BlackBetsy.com was interviewed about the legacy of Shoeless Joe Jackson.

Finally, SABR's Black Sox committee was featured in the "Banned For Life\*" episode of ESPN's new *Backstory* documentary series, produced by Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Don Van Natta Jr. and focusing on Shoeless Joe Jackson and Pete Rose. The show premiered on January 19, 2020, and features clips from the SABR 49 convention in San Diego last summer and Van Natta's interview with Pomrenke, along with interviews of Rose, former MLB commissioner Fay Vincent, filmmaker John Sayles, Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum founding director Arlene Marcley, and others.

The committee has also published two newsletters with a number of interesting articles that help enhance our understanding of the Black Sox Scandal.

In the December 2019 newsletter, we highlighted the Chicago symposium, the *Infamous America* podcast series, the upcoming Field of Dreams movie site baseball game in Iowa, and also featured articles by Ron Coleman on the 1919 World Series, Robert Bergeson on Buck Weaver's hypothetical arbitration case, Bruce Allardice on Judge Landis and baseball's ban hammer, and Bill Lamb on Black Sox defense counsel Ben Short.

The upcoming June 2020 newsletter will include articles by Pomrenke on the 1919 "flu mask" winter league baseball game and NL president John Heydler's 1920 visit to Cooperstown, Allardice with an examination of 1919 vs. 2019 bribe payoffs, Lamb on Black Sox prosecutor George Gorman, Leman Saunder on Chick Gandil's early years, and Sharon Hamilton on Ernest Hemingway and his White Sox betting habits.

— **Jacob Pomrenke**

## Business of Baseball Research Committee

The Business of Baseball Committee expanded its reach in covering the history of the business of baseball.

Andy McCue continues to lead up the Team Ownership Histories project, an amazing joint effort of the Business of Baseball committee and the BioProject. The goal of the project is to provide as much detail as possible about the organization and composition of ownership groups, franchise sales, relocations, stadiums, and other issues that provide the financial context for team success on the field. Completed work is already published by: Mark Armour, David Bohmer, Greg Erion, Steve Friedman, Dan Levitt, Gary M. Olson, Dennis Pajot, Andrew Sharp, and Allen Tait. Through work done by Charlie Bevis and others, the project has expanded to include additional associations, leagues, and points in history. We're hoping to see your name listed in next year's report. Here is a link to the project. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/topic/team-ownership-histories>

Passion and interest are ramping up for the historical database of Major League Baseball team employees. Led by Dan Levitt, this initiative will give us a new lens into major-league front and back offices, from team owners to ticket sales. As we build the database, we will be able to see the evolution of baseball employment over time and also create a record of the individuals who staffed them. For more information about the project, visit <https://sabr.org/latest/seeking-volunteers-mlb-team-employee-directory-project> And a thank you to the individuals who have jumped in early on the project: Mike Bender, Dennis Bidwell, Cliff Blau, Kurt Blumenau, Ken Carrano, David Cieslinski, David Coyle-Mallocci, Richard Cuicchi, Ray Danner, Dennis Degenhardt, Mark Galus, Gabriella Garr, Jerry Gauthier, Stephen Ginader, John Green, Vince Guerrieri, Leslie Heaphy, Tim Herlich, Sarah Johnson, David Krell, Sean Lahman, Connor LaVelle, Andrea Long, Matt Mitchell, Paul Moehringer, Mauricio Montenegro, Sven Muencheberg, Bill Nielsen, Andrew Noe, Andrew North, Elena North, Stan Osowiecki, KaSaundra Peterson, Annie Setten, Michael Scott, Karly Siegler, John Swol, Bruce Thompson, Stew Thornley, Mike Webber, and Jim Wohlenhaus.

*Outside the Lines*, the long-standing foundational publication from the committee, continues to produce powerful articles. A thank you to authors from the last year: Bruce S. Allardice (The Chicago White Stockings of 1876), Baseball's Most Profitable Club, Dave Bohmer (A History of the Cleveland Indians Franchise), Mitchell Manoff (A Brief Review of David Kronheim's Annual MiLB Attendance Report), and Michael Hauptert (How Cheap was Charles Comiskey? Salaries and the Black Sox?, A History of the Chicago Cubs Franchise, The Gift That Was Babe Ruth). *Recently Published Research* persists in keeping you abreast of the latest academic research emerging from many business of baseball fields. Current and past editions of the newsletter can be found at <https://sabr.org/research/business-baseball-research-committee>

*Other committee resources for your enjoyment ...*

Access your copy of all three volumes of the history of the Winter Meetings books at <https://sabr.org/ebooks>

— **Michael Hauptert**

## Collegiate Baseball Research Committee

The Collegiate Baseball Committee held its Annual Meeting at SABR 49 with approximately 10 attending. John Czimbab acted as meeting moderator with the Chairman participating by telephone.

As of June 1, 2020, new files have been created for a total of 1,217 college programs an increase of 128 over June 1 2019. The breakdown by category:

Category	2020	2019	Change
Sr. College active	691	660	31
Jr. College active	429	336	93
Sr. College inactive	59	58	1
Jr. College inactive	38	35	3
TOTAL	1,217	1,089	128

Over the past 2 years a concerted effort has undertaken to create files on all active junior college programs, particularly at the DIII level. Over 200 files have been created as part of this effort.

One newsletter will be issued with distribution scheduled around June 15, 2020. The newsletter will include the list of Major League players with a collegiate pedigree who made their debut in 2019.

We continued publishing a “necrology” of former collegiate baseball coaches who passed away.

The Chairman took possession from the Ted Williams SABR chapter of 3 binders of 1935-36 newspaper clippings on collegiate baseball that were part of the collection received from Ray Nemeč’s family. The clippings are believed to have been compiled by Louie Heilbronner (or someone associated with him) and then passed to Ray Nemeč.

— **Karl Green**

## Deadball Era Research Committee

Now in its twentieth year of existence, the Deadball Era Committee continues to grow while fulfilling its mission of researching and chronicling baseball history from 1901 through 1919. The Committee remains one of the largest in SABR.

The Committee is chaired by John McMurray. It publishes a newsletter, *The Inside Game*, four (and often, five) times each year under the editorial direction of newsletter editor Bill Lamb and Assistant Editors Mark Dugo and Bob Harris. Newsletter issues typically are about twenty-five pages in length and often include original research. The newsletter is distinguished by the depth of its book reviews and critiques of the period.

Under the supervision of Doug Skipper, the Deadball Era Committee presents the Ritter Award annually to the best book focused primarily on the Deadball Era published during the year prior. This year, the Ritter Award subcommittee selected co-winners: Jeremy Beer’s *Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball’s Greatest Forgotten Player* and Charles

DeMotte's *James T. Farrell & Baseball: Dreams & Realism on Chicago's South Side*. Both books are published by University of Nebraska Press.

Dialogue on matters of interest to members occurs on the Committee's active online discussion group.

Committee members remain committed to fulfilling the mission of the Deadball Era Committee and to continuing in the same free-spirited vein which characterizes both our Committee and the baseball era to which it is devoted.

— **John McMurray**

### **Educational Resources Research Committee**

We had a large and enthusiastic turnout at the annual convention in San Diego. We decided to focus on collecting curriculum and syllabi for course in all subjects and grade levels to create a repository for members use. Unfortunately, after the upload link was sent to members, only 2 such documents were submitted. I will revisit this again over the summer and if needed at the 2021 Annual convention.

Before the pandemic I was moving forward on a suggestion from the 2019 meeting to try and bring in a speaker from the orioles who works in educational outreach or a similar program for the team. I will pursue that again for the 2021 convention. As we continue to conduct business remotely, I am also brainstorming possible guest speakers that would be of interest to the committee members and SABR as a whole.

After all schools moved to remote instruction, we had a virtual committee meeting to discuss challenges of teaching remotely and share what is working. We had 4 members attend the meeting and a great discussion was held with lots of great ideas that we were all able to implement. We all also left the meeting feeling like we were dealing with the same issues which was also a relief for most of us.

As we move closer to the start of Fall semester 2020 and it becomes clearer how classes will be handled, I plan on having a committee meeting to discuss the syllabus collection project and share ideas and concerns about either remaining remote or transitioning back to the classroom. As with the previous meeting all SABR members will be welcome to attend. I would love to have some students and parents in the discussion if possible!

— **Allison Levin**

## Games Project Research Committee

The Games Project Research Committee has been publishing game articles online since 2014. With the pandemic, interest among SABR members has grown and we are experiencing a surge of submissions. Mike Huber has chaired the committee since the beginning of 2018, supported by a strong group. During the month of April and May 2020, we have had several new members volunteer to fact-check (led by Bruce Slutsky) and edit (led by Len Levin). Steve Weiner and I maintain a spreadsheet to manage committee flow work and account for all article work from assignment to publication/posting.

The mission of the committee is to support those who wish to research, write, and publish accounts of major-league regular season, postseason, and All-Star games, along with other games of historical significance such as in the Negro Leagues, minor leagues, or international or exhibition contests. These game accounts complement Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference box scores, as well as SABR BioProject essays on the players involved.

As of May 27, 2020, there have been 3,315 games assigned to individuals or editors of book projects. Some articles are posted both to the website and are part of book projects. Of the total number, 2,006 completed articles are posted on the SABR Games Project website. This is an increase of about 500 articles in the past 12 months. An additional 321 articles have been completed and published in books (not yet posted to the web). Approximately one year after publication, these articles are then posted onto the SABR website. This means that about 1,309 games have been requested and are either awaiting publication in a book project or have not yet been submitted to our team for editing and fact-checking. More completed games are added to the website each week.

Our team is actively engaged in supporting the Games Project in several ways. As in the past, many of the recent SABR book projects incorporate a larger number of games than previous books. The book editors aim to recruit as many authors as possible. The publication of SABR-sponsored books has slowed in recent months. We tried an online project on Opening Day Games and are considering other ideas. Other members pursue opportunities for direct posting to the Games Project website. This means that there continues to be a large number of games which we manage.

All articles contain links to both Retrosheet.org and Baseball-Reference.com box score and play-by-play pages, when the game is requested. In addition, both Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference now have links on box scores/play-by-play to our published game articles.

We have revitalized the Games Project's presence on Facebook. Tom Brown continues to be our director for this effort.

In early January, Jacob Pomrenke sent me pageviews of our top ten articles for the 2019 calendar year. They were:

- May 25, 1935: Babe Ruth's 3-HR game 8627
- July 2, 1963: Juan Marichal outduels Warren Spahn 7478
- April 23, 1999: Fernando Tatis' two grand slams in one inning 7408
- August 7, 1982: Jim Rice's heroic effort saves child's life 5759
- September 9, 1969: Black cat spooks Cubs vs. Mets 5223



- August 4, 1983: Dave Winfield's errant throw kills seagull 4751
- April 15, 1947: Jackie Robinson's major league debut 3724
- August 24, 1919: Ray Caldwell struck by lightning 3245
- July 3, 1966: Tony Cloninger clouts two grand slams 2981
- September 6, 1976: Steve Yeager suffers near-fatal accident 2791
- June 9, 1946: Ted Williams hits 502-foot red seat home run 2761

In total, the Games Project pages received more than 305,000 pageviews last calendar year. That comprised about 9% of SABR.org's overall traffic. In comparison, there were 218,000 pageviews in 2018.

Finally, Jacob has informed me that, "From a big-picture perspective, the biggest change for the Games Project — other than the new look/feel of the site — is that the search function will be more robust for readers to find new (and old, familiar) stories to browse through. All the category menus will be the same for now, but we will have an expanded ability in the future to 'curate' Games Project stories and other articles from SABR's vast 50-year-old research collection into brand-new themed collections called Web Features."

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve SABR with the Games Project Committee.

— **Mike Huber**

### **Latino Baseball Research Committee**

The SABR Latino Baseball Committee seeks to educate the public of the rich and illustrious history of the Latin contribution to the game of baseball. The committee provides interesting research on many nuances in baseball's history. From Latinos in the Negro Leagues and professional baseball in the Caribbean, to the ever-growing number of Latinos in baseball today, there is much work to be done as we continue to explore new stories to tell.

Since 2017, SABR Latino has maintained a very active Facebook page: [<https://www.facebook.com/SABRlatinobaseball>], which has allowed for greater sharing of news and information, and also created collaborations with other SABR committees and organizations. Since the beginning of COVID-19 (March 2020), SABR Latino has created a series of Zoom online discussion sessions featuring authors and baseball personalities prominent in the Latino baseball community. These sessions have been met with great success.

SABR Latino continues to work with the Negro League committee and Women in Baseball committee on SABR's Diversity Committee to create initiatives that will generate greater attention to the organization's diversity efforts and programs, and increase membership among underrepresented communities.

— **Anthony Salazar**

## Negro Leagues Research Committee

The Negro Leagues Committee (NLC) had another banner year. Its quarterly newsletter, *The Courier* goes out to roughly 600 members. Since my last annual report, we have lost the following Negro League veterans: Ollie Brantley, JayCee Casselberry, Roy Chapman, Philip Edwards, Sam Fulton, Earl Harry, Leroy Miller, Bob Mitchell, Jerry Bennett, Al Cartmill, Cliff DuBose, Weedy Edwards, Neale Henderson, Maurice Peatros, Sammie Taylor, Robert Rosel Williams, Bill E. White, Johnny Wilson, Chuck Harmon, Porter Reed, Don Newcombe, Jose Santiago, Roberto Herrera, Ira McKnight, John Mitchell, Raymon Lacy, and Billy McCrary (27).

The NLC continues to raise funds to purchase headstones for unmarked graves of former players and executives. Currently on the short list are:

- Henry Bridgewater
- Comer Cox
- Palmer Hubbard
- Cowan Hyde
- Dan Kennard
- Charles Mills
- Clarence Palm

The Grave Marker Project is led by Dr. Jeremy Krock of Peoria, Illinois. Donations can be made to the SABR office. More information about this project can be found at:

<http://www.larrylester42.com/grave-markers.html>

In 2019 the **Thomas R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship** essay winners were: **Ian Cohen** from Arizona and **Joseph Young** from Florida

Tweeb Webb Lifetime Achievement Award: Mike Lynch of Seamheads.com

Robert Peterson Recognition Award:

- James E. Brunson III for *Black Baseball, 1858 – 1900*
- Jeremy Beer for *Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball's Greatest Forgotten Player*
- Kazuo Sayama and Bill Staples, Jr., for *Gentle Black Giants*

John Coates Next Generation Award: Vanessa Ivy Rose

Fay Vincent Most Valuable Partner (MVP) Award: Kevin Johnson, Gary Ashwill

No awards for Art Competition and Library Grants were given in 2019.

### Noteworthy publications this year included:

*Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball's Greatest Forgotten Player* by Jeremy Beer  
*The Dizzy and Daffy Dean Barnstorming Tour* by Phil S. Dixon

*Gentle Black Giants: A History of Negro Leaguers in Japan* by Kazuo Sayama & Bill Staples, Jr.

*Let's Play Two: The Legend of Mr. Cub, the Life of Ernie Banks* by Ron Rapoport

*Reclaiming 42: Public Memory and the Reframing of Jackie Robinson's Radical Legacy* by David Naze

*The Newark Eagles Take Flight: The Story of the 1946 Negro League Champions* by Frederick C. Bush and Bill Nowlin

*Black Baseball's Last Team Standing: The Birmingham Black Barons, 1919-1962* by Bill Plott

*Black Baseball, 1858-1900, Volumes 1, 2 & 3* by James E. Brunson III

*I Was Born a Grown Man, as told by Melvin "Buck" Duncan* with David E. Miller

*Invisible Ball of Dreams: Literary Representation of Baseball Behind the Color Line* by Emily Ruth Rutter

*The Integration of the Pacific Coast League: Race and Baseball on the West Coast* by Amy Essington

*The Black Bruins: The Remarkable Lives of UCLA's Jackie Robinson, Woody Strode, Tom Bradley, Kenny Washington, and Ray Bartlett* by James W. Johnson

*The Heritage: Black Athletes, A Divided America and the Politics of Patriotism* by Howard Bryant

*The Negro Leagues Book, Volume 2, the Players, 1862-1960* by Wayne Stivers and Larry Lester

#### **Other notable events included:**

The Sweet Lou Johnson Scholarship is created by the Sweet Lou Johnson Lexington, KY, SABR chapter.

The opera *Summer King*, about Negro League legend Josh Gibson debuts at the Michigan Opera Theatre.

The U.S. House voted to give the Congressional Gold Medal to Larry Doby.

The Negro Southern League Museum hosts the first Negro Southern League Baseball Conference.

Bud Fowler is inducted into the Mohawk Valley Baseball Hall of Fame.

*The Other Boys of Summer*, a documentary by Lauren Meyer premieres in New York City.

*Toni Stone*, an off-Broadway production, debuts in Lauren Pels Theatre.

Dr. Charles Crutchfield artwork is exhibited at CHS Field, home of the St. Paul Saints.

Clarence "Fats" Jenkins is inducted into the Capital Area Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

A bipartisan bill is proposed to create a Negro Leagues Baseball Centennial Commemorative Coin, with a scheduled debut in 2021.

The Detroit Stars Centennial Conference celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1919 Detroit Stars. Bill Dumpson, former Harlem Globetrotter and Negro League veteran is inducted into the Nassau County Hall of Fame.

Jim Robinson, former Kansas City Monarch, appears in a Toyota Highlander commercial.

The Popular Culture Association awards Dr. James Brunson, III, with the Brown Best Edited Reference/Primary Source Award.

The Susquehanna Art Museum celebrates 100 years with an art exhibit, featuring Graig Kreindler, Phil Dewey, Dane Tilghman and Paul Kuhrman.

A roadside marker is installed in Harrisburg, PA for Spottswood Poles.

The Caribbean Baseball Hall of Fame honors Buster Clarkson, Bob Thurman and Roberto Vargas.

— **Larry Lester**

### **Nineteenth Century Research Committee**

Our Nineteenth Century Committee held its' last annual business meeting during SABR 49 in San Diego, CA under the direction of Vice Chair **Bob Bailey** on June 29, 2019 and we will meet virtually during the period of July 15-19, 2020, the dates of the now postponed SABR 50 convention.

Our Research Committee has continued to publish its regular quarterly newsletter, "Nineteenth Century Notes" (which is never fewer than 12 pages) in a timely manner thanks to Bob Bailey.

Since last summer the Committee organized what was to be our 12th annual **Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference**, a.k.a. "The Fred" which was to take place on April 24-25, 2020 at its usual venue, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (HOF) in Cooperstown, NY. "The Fred" was able to accept another record number of attendees (84 registrants along with another nine guests). Unfortunately, the 12th Annual "Fred" had to be completely re-scheduled for April 23 & 24, 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, we were able to re-schedule the entire "Fred" due to the cooperation with our body of registrants who allowed SABR to hold their Conference and Dinner Fees to be applied to the April, 2021 dates. Thus far the entire 12th Annual Fred Conference (with the exception of one presentation) is scheduled to be presented in its entirety, April 23 & 24, 2021, its new official date.

On November 16, 2019 we conducted, along with SABR's Halsey Hall Chapter and the Hennepin County Public Libraries our fifth city-specific, symposium, the **Minnesota 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium**, at the Minneapolis Public Library. The Symposium featured a Welcoming Address by MLB Official Historian / SABR Member, **John Thorn**. The symposium was well attended thanks to the efforts of the Halsey Hall Chapter members involved the publicity and programming. Our Committee wishes to particularly acknowledge to efforts of member **Bob Tholkes**, who advanced this symposium from an idea to a reality.

Our Committee's sixth city-specific symposium, the **Brooklyn (NY) 19th Century Baseball Symposium**, a collaboration between SABR's Nineteenth Century Committee and Saint Francis

College and has been scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2020, pandemic permitting. The venue will be the college itself, in the historic neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights in Downtown Brooklyn and is likely to include an optional Sunday historic baseball tour. Registration materials for the symposium will be available in late August. Nineteenth Century Committee Member Tom Gilbert is spearheading this event, which is pending the announcement of the College's mode of operations given the current pandemic. If we cannot go forward in 2020 we will be seeking to reschedule this symposium to November of 2021.

Thanks to Co-Chairs **Adam Darowski** and **Joe Williams** and the **Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Legends Project Committee** the Committee completed its 10th annual Overlooked Legends selection, Jim Creighton (2019), which was announced at SABR 49 in San Diego by Committee member **Tom Zocco**. Now, thanks to Darowski and Williams and our newly reinforced Overlooked 19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball Legends Project Committee our 11th annual Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends selection is under way, which has included a committee-wide primary election with a slate of 25 candidates in January/February 2020 and the (just launched at this writing) SABR-wide final election in late May/early June. The full 11th annual (2020) Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legend election results will be announced at our virtual meeting during July on a date that will fall within what was to be SABR 50.

Our Nineteenth Century Committee's **19th Century Baseball Grave Marker Project Committee**, chaired by **Ralph Carhart**, dedicated its fifth grave marker at the previously unmarked grave of Overlooked Legend Hicks Hayhurst (2019). Carhart and Connie Mack Chapter Co-Chair **Seamus Kearney** led a small contingent of baseball fans to Philadelphia's Mount Peace Cemetery, the site of Hicks's (and his wife Elizabeth's) grave for the Saturday, September 14, 2019 dedication. After the grave marker dedication, everyone proceeded to Philadelphia's historic Jefferson Street Grounds to celebrate the 150th anniversary of one of baseball's seminal occasions, the match up of the all African-American Pythian Baseball Club v. the all white Olympic Club, both of Philadelphia. Carhart, Kearney and **Matt Albertson** spearheaded that commemoration. In addition to SABR members' donations, the 19c BB Grave Marker Project has strong support from MLB and its Commissioner's Office and has received a sustaining grant from MLB.

Finally, our annual 2019 Nineteenth Century Committee **Chairman's Award** was announced at last June's annual business meeting in San Diego. The 2019 recipients for service to our Committee were **Bill Nowlin** who oversaw the completion of Part II of our Committee's most recent book project, *Base Ball's 19th Century 'Winter' Meetings*. Bill now joins Co-Editor **Jeremy Hodges** who had previously received the award for his completion of Part I of this comprehensive history. The second recipient of the 2019 Chairman's Award was SABR Chicago Chapter Member **Richard Smiley**, who assisted Ralph Carhart in organizing and then singlehandedly leading a small contingent of local Chicago baseball fans to the dedication of the grave marker for Bob Caruthers. The 2020 Chairman's Award recipient(s) will be announced virtually on a date that would have spanned SABR 50 had it taken place in Baltimore as scheduled. Chairman's Award recipients receive an engraved reproduction 1880s vintage Burlingame model bat.

Thanks to all our committee members and the SABR HQ staff who helped our committee through this past year's undertakings ... because, baseball history is not only baseball history.

— **Peter Mancuso**

## Official Scoring Committee

The big news for the Official Scoring Committee is that we have a great new co-chair, Chris Phillips. Chris has written a book on scouting and scoring and presented at the SABR convention in San Diego. You can read all about it in our latest newsletter at <https://sabr.org/content/official-scoring-committee-may-2020-newsletter>.

We did produce two newsletters this year and held our committee meeting in San Diego. I have been encouraging our members to do profiles and write bios on official scorers for the BioProject Committee, although I'm hesitant to do that again. The BioProject now has profiles on two official scorers — Susan Fornoff and Gregg Wong — although apparently the committee is reluctant to have more. Meanwhile, we have continued collecting information on all aspects of official scoring, particularly its history, and serve as a repository or something for such information.

— **Stew Thornley**

## Oral History Research Committee

For SABR's 50th anniversary, the Oral History Committee is collectively interviewing prominent figures in SABR's history, including researchers, committee chairs, chapter leaders, and board members. This work will be completed by SABR's annual convention in 2021 and posted to [oralhistory.sabr.org](http://oralhistory.sabr.org).

The mission of SABR's Oral History Committee is to collect, preserve, and make available recordings which provide insight into the people and events in baseball. As Jonathan Mahler noted in *The New York Times* in 2008, "Bart Giamatti, the former commissioner of baseball, was fond of saying that the history of the game was oral." Given its focus on interviewing former major league players, the Oral History Committee serves a role central to SABR's mission.

John McMurray has served as Chair of the Oral History Committee since 2014. Mark Pattison, Paul Ringel, and Paul Rogers serve as committee Vice-Chairs, and Mark Ruckhaus is Newsletter Editor. A primer to assist interviewers as well as a release form which outlines rights retained by interviewers are also both posted on the committee website, as is a list of completed interviews.

Two years ago, the Committee released The Oral History Collection ([oralhistory.sabr.org](http://oralhistory.sabr.org)), made up of nearly 600 interviews, many of which were completed by members of the Oral History Committee. Some of the interviews date from fifty years ago, and the Collection includes interviews with baseball players, authors, broadcasters, and others associated with the game. This compilation is the largest ever released by the Oral History Committee.

The mission of the committee is to interview anyone with connections to Major League Baseball. That includes, for instance, journalists and official scorers, among others. It also released a newsletter in March 2018 which included perspectives on interviewing and reviews of baseball oral history books.

The Oral History Committee also serves as a resource for interviewers. The scope and depth of the Oral History Committee's work invites the participation of both new and veteran interviewers, as we aim to augment and preserve baseball's historical record.

— **John McMurray**

### **Science of Baseball Committee**

In late February I was preparing to devote the next three months to a concerted effort to bring our project of the last few years to fruition. I would initiate an online discussion of all the unfinished elements of our plan to fix baseball's Contact Crisis by proposing a move to a slightly heavier baseball that would reduce both pitch velocity and movement. At the same time I would refine and update both my statistical analysis of the problem, and the attendance model that I presented at last year's committee meeting.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it clear to me that this effort should, alas, be delayed a year, as the sort of online discussion we need seems to me to require the enthusiasm generated by an upcoming convention where the completed project could be revealed to SABR at large. I very much hope that next year I will be reporting that we have done all that!

— **Eric Van**

### **Statistical Analysis Committee**

As of June 2020, the SABR Statistical Analysis Committee is comprised of some 880 members who share an interest in sabermetrics.

Our most recent issue of "By the Numbers," (BTN) the committee newsletter, was in June 2019. BTN is more a journal than a newsletter; we feature original research studies, and committee communications and announcements are handled through the SABR website rather than the newsletter. This has allowed us to promote BTN to the wider research community, and we have many regular readers outside of SABR's virtual walls.

In terms of publication frequency, that is determined by the rate of submissions from researchers inside and outside SABR. Lately, they have been less frequent than usual. Sabermetrics is probably the most popular area of study in the baseball research community, and analysts have a wide range of outlets for publishing their work. Many have expressed a preference for publishing on the web, rather than through SABR: the turnaround is faster, and the interactive nature of the web provides them faster feedback and recognition.

We are hoping for regression to the mean, and more submissions this year than last. However, we do not expect to return to the publication rate we had back in the 1990s, with a quarterly schedule of larger issues.

In that light, the Statistical Analysis Committee has, in practice, a different function from some of SABR's other committees. It's just one of many, many places that sabmetricians can pursue their research in a peer-to-peer setting, rather than, as other committees are, the primary community for those interested in a certain area of baseball research.

Further, committee members have noted that much of the statistical analysis with which SABR is credited takes place in other forums than the Statistical Analysis Committee. For instance, we were not involved in SABR's participation in the Rawlings Gold Glove Award, and sabermetric submissions to the *Baseball Research Journal* are peer-reviewed separate from BTN. Some members have commented on this at our annual meeting, and I suspect the topic will come up again, on how we can participate more actively in SABR's other statistically-oriented endeavors.

Our research discussion group on Yahoo!, "Statistical Analysis" (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/StatisticalAnalysis>), has 278 subscribers, and reasonably active community discussions. Every sabermetrics site on the web has a slightly different emphasis and tone; in my view, ours has a SABR "flavor" of the kind you find on SABR-L, as well as the advantage of SABR members' warm collegiality.

While there is no SABR convention this year, we are hoping that in Baltimore in 2021, we will revisit our annual discussion of further ways in which the SAC can enhance and serve their interest in statistical analysis of baseball, for our active researchers, and also for the majority who enthusiastically receive their work.

— **Phil Birnbaum and Chris Dial**

### **The Baseball Index Research Committee**

The Baseball Index ([www.baseballindex.org](http://www.baseballindex.org)) continues to grow and be used by SABR members as a starting point for their research.

Constantly improved by our volunteers, the database now contains information about 261,802 articles, books, book sections and other items that can be used by baseball researchers. Many of the new entries come with URLs to make internet research easier. We had 258,062 entries a year ago.

The new volunteers were led by Joe Wancho and Bruce Slutsky. Joe keeps adding all the products of the BioProject publishing program to the database. Bruce Slutsky has begun the process of adding all the Games Project articles, almost 2,000 in the past year, and adding to our listings of BioProject essays as well.

We continue to have solid support from other volunteers, especially Bill Lamb, who catalogs research articles from several committee newsletters. Other volunteers keep us current on the SABR publications Joe doesn't do, as well as Base Ball, Black Ball, NINE, Memories and Dreams and current books. This past year, we finished adding Sports Illustrated through 2010 to our listings.

Our main targets for further entries are *Sports Illustrated*, *Sport*, and *Baseball Digest*. Other sports publications, academic publications, general interest magazines and websites are also areas where we could use more coverage. New volunteers are a critical need for the project.

Although the attempt has been put on hold by the Covid-19 epidemic, we continue to seek ways to improve our current software. The database needs a search system which will allow more than one term to be searched at a time. The software needs to be able to distinguish between terms when one search term is included in another (i.e. a search for World War I will turn up everything about World War II). And, the database needs a user-friendly data entry system with appropriate filters to ensure the integrity of the search terms.

When we do find a programmer, we will be seeking donations to pay him. This past year, I designated my regular donation to SABR to be used only for improvements to TBI. You might consider doing the same.

— **Andy McCue**



## **Women in Baseball Research Committee**

Listed in this report are contributions from members and friends of this committee throughout the past year: June 2019-May 2020. These contributions include publications, presentations, conferences, scholarships, tournaments and other efforts to promote and preserve the history of women's contributions to the game.

### **New projects**

The Committee is launching for the upcoming year a poster competition for students from 3rd grade through college undergraduates to celebrate women's participation in the game in all ways.

Launched an effort to create a list of all firsts for women in baseball.

### **Presentations/Panels**

Zoom discussion with authors Anika Orrock and Kat Williams to discuss their new books—May 2020.

Podcasts on Pandemic Baseball Book club website—Anika Orrock and D. B. Firstman.

June 26-29, 2019. SABR 49, San Diego, California. Jean Ardell: Moderating the Women in Baseball Plenary Session with panelists Janet Marie Smith, senior vice-president of planning and development, Los Angeles Dodgers; Justine Siegal, founder of Baseball For All; Ila Jane Borders, who played 3-1/2 seasons of men's professional baseball; Jewel Greenberg, producer of the 2019 documentary film "Hardball: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey," and Kelsie Whitmore, who played two seasons of baseball with the Sonoma Stompers.

*Perry Barber: The Lady is an Ump!* (18 min.) National Baseball Hall of Fame Film Festival, September 2019.

HOVG Podcast: [Perry Barber](#). November 2019.

### **Publications**

#### **Books**

Anika Orrock, *The Incredible Women of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League*

Kat Williams. *Isabel "Lefty" Alvarez*.

Jim Overmyer. New Edition of *Effa Manley, Queen of the Negro Leagues*.

D. B. Firstman. *Hall of Name*.

#### **Articles**

Kumu Gupta. [Legendary Mary Pratt](#).

Rebecca Herman, [Reflections on Women in Baseball Week](#).

#### **Newsletters**

Two issues sent out.

#### **Other**

The winner of the Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 was Rachel Robinson. The announcement for the 2020 winner will be forthcoming this summer.

The 4th Annual Women on the Diamond Art Competition will take place this coming summer and fall.

No scholarship was awarded for 2019 but the competition will continue for the upcoming school year.

Co-Hosted the first Women in Baseball Conference during the Arizona Fall League with the IWBC. Nearly 40 attendees came to hear research presentations and panels and attend some baseball games together.

Planning is underway for the second Women in Baseball Conference for September 2020 in Rockford, Illinois.

Members continue to participate in the annual Red Sox Fantasy Camp in January.

Numerous articles on SABR BioProject, games project and other SABR publications.

Contributions to many articles, school projects, history day projects and on-going book projects by our members.

— **Leslie Heaphy**