Announcing Our New Map of New Deal New York

Two years in the making, The Living New Deal’s newest publication, a “Map and Guide to New Deal New York,” highlights nearly 1,000 public works throughout the five boroughs and describes 50 of the city’s notable New Deal buildings, parks, murals, and other sites and artworks. The 18 x 27 inch, multi-color map folds to pocket size, while three inset maps offer walking tours of the New Deal in Central Park, and Midtown and Downtown Manhattan. Beginning this week, The Living New Deal will host events in Manhattan to celebrate the map—and New Deal New York at large. You can purchase the map, and a poster of it, here.

Culture and Space: A Case Study of the New Deal at UNC

More than any other era in US history, the New Deal supported the development of new work in the arts. Two scholars at the University of North Carolina have compiled, “The Forest Theatre, Expressive Landscape, and the New Deal at UNC Chapel Hill,” a bibliographic essay exploring the relationship between New Deal structures and cultural projects at that campus, with special focus on the relationship between space and performance undertaken at the Forest Theatre. The essay suggests potential avenues for further research into the New Deal, emphasizing the politics of place and the arts, during the New Deal era. Read the entire essay.

Living New Dealer of the Month: Jason Reblando

A professor of photography at Illinois State University whose work has appeared in the New York Times, Slate, and Bloomberg Business-week, Jason Reblando has just completed New Deal Utopias. (That’s him above, during a Fulbright fellowship in the Philippines). In this photo book, which also features writing by Living New Deal Research Board member Robert Leighninger, Jason turns his camera on the remains of three planned communities that were established in the 1930s to help displaced farmers and urbanites. These “Greenbelt Towns,” Jason notes, “embodied the hope that American citizens would meet the challenges of the Great Depression in a spirit of cooperation, not individualism”—an aim with as much relevance today as 80 years ago. New Deal Utopias will be published in September. Pre-order your copy today. Congratulations, Jason!

Family and Nation Under FDR: A Call to Historians

The conflict between conservatives and progressives, traditionalists and modernists, dominates American politics and political memory. Even today, there is a rift between members of families for whom Franklin Roosevelt personified a demagogue (or even, for some, the Antichrist) and those for whom he was the nation’s savior. Considering the unique vantage that historians bring to both family and national histories, where are the intersections between their professional work and their personal memories or family stories of life during the Roosevelt period? Marie Bolton, Associate Professor of American History at University Clermont Auvergne/HEC, France is seeking proposals from professional historians interested in contributing to a book of essays on this issue. For more information about proposals, please email Prof. Bolton at marie.bolton@uca.fr.

* Recorded in 1932 by Don Redman and His Orchestra, with the assistance of Bill Robinson. "Doin' US History/Economics