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**The Cambridge Historical Society Announces 2019 Oral History Project
with Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House**

Project funded by grant from Mass Humanities

CAMBRIDGE, MA: The [Cambridge Historical Society](#) (CHS) is pleased to announce receipt of a \$7,500 grant from [Mass Humanities](#) to conduct an oral history project. Mass Humanities receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

CHS will use this grant to support a project entitled: “Sweet Souls, Voices from the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House in Cambridge” which will examine the impact of one of America’s oldest settlement houses on individual and neighborhood life over fifty years. CHS will be collecting under-documented narratives of people whose lives have intersected with [Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House](#) (MFNH) service and activism.

Katie Burke and Lina Raciukaitis, under the guidance of oral historians [Jane Becker](#) from UMASS Boston, and [Diana Lempel](#) of Cambridge, Massachusetts will gather the personal stories and experiences of twelve people affiliated with the 112-year-old settlement house in the Port. Recordings will be collected by trainees from [Loop Lab](#), a Cambridge-based non-profit focused on workforce development for young adults.

“Sweet Souls”, through interviews and interpretation, will reflect on what MFNH’s history teaches us about supporting and empowering people and neighborhoods facing significant challenges. A free and public roundtable discussion about the project will be held this fall. Audio and transcripts of the interviews will be available on the Society’s website after the project is completed in early 2020.

“Sweet Souls” builds upon our most recent oral history project, [“Caribbean Heritage in Cambridge.”](#) In 2018, the Society collected interviews of nine Cambridge residents born in or with roots in the Caribbean as part of our annual theme “Where is Cambridge From?” Oral histories were gathered from community members with ties to Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Suriname, and Trinidad, who ranged in age from their 20s to 70s. We collected memories of Cambridge reaching back to the 1950s. The 2018 oral histories can be accessed on the Society’s website [here](#).

The Society’s next public event is a book talk with Heli Meltsner on May 16 highlighting the Arts and Crafts Houses of Massachusetts. The event is free and open to the public. Details are at [cambridgehistory.org](#).

Additional events will be held throughout 2019. Dates and times will be announced at [www.cambridgehistory.org](#). Follow us on social media to get the latest on news and events: Twitter ([@CambridgeHS](#)) and Facebook ([@CambridgeHistory](#))

About The Cambridge Historical Society

From the American Revolution to the biotech revolution, the history of Cambridge, Massachusetts is unlike that of any other city. A city this vibrant and vital must preserve its past and learn from it to make the Cambridge of today the best it can be. Founded in 1905, the Cambridge Historical Society is a membership organization that serves our community through inclusive programming and stewardship of its historic collections and the property entrusted to it. The Society helps those who live and work in Cambridge explore and understand how and why we got here and use that perspective to facilitate the exploration and understanding of contemporary issues. We enable our community to better recognize, understand, and appreciate the threads that connect yesterday, today, and tomorrow and connect us to each other and our community.

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