

Joanna Shea O'Brien

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EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Columbia University, School of the Arts

M.F.A., Nonfiction Writing, February 2003

New York, NY

Marymount University

B.A., English, August 1997

Arlington, VA

University of Strasbourg, Hood College Study Abroad

International Institute of French Studies Language Program, June 1997

Strasbourg, France

March Forward Massachusetts

Advisory Board Co Chair, February 2017 to July 2017

Boston, MA

Winchester for Peace

Founding Member, November 2016 to present

Winchester, MA

New Frontier Network, JFK Library Foundation

Steering Committee Member, April 2012 to present

Boston, MA

Neighborhood Cooperative Nursery School

Executive Board Member, August 2012 to June 2015, May 2017 to present

Winchester, MA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Event Organizer, Communications, Boston Women's March for America

December 2016 – January 2017

Directed activities for BWMFA project manager, communications, logistics and programming teams to organize the 175,000-person January 21st March on the Boston Common. Assisted in logistical planning with City of Boston, Boston Police, MBTA, EMS, and Mayoral staff. Coordinated weekly conference calls and distributed all team correspondence related to event. Developed social media command center with appropriate technology for day of event. Planned and coordinated with disability advocates to ensure March accessibility.

Research and Communications Consultant, JFK Library Foundation

Boston, MA

January 2016 - March 2016, March 2017 - May 2017

Worked with the JFKLF Director of Awards Programs to research and vet nominees for the 2016 annual Profile in Courage Award. Wrote summaries of candidates, responded to feedback from Award Committee, participated in conference calls and meetings, and provided critical response to Committee and staff. Coordinated with the Communications staff on a Social Media for the #JFK100 centennial. Researched Library archives and drafted weekly tweets, posts and Instagram captions for social media platforms leading up to the May 2017 celebration.

Oral Historian, Our Marathon WBUR Oral History Project

Boston, MA

November 2013 - August 2014

One of two oral historians working with Northeastern University's Our Marathon WBUR Oral History Project to select forty narrators from a pool of over 200 candidates to interview about their experience during the Boston Marathon Bombing in April 2013. Researched narrators' backgrounds prior to interview, created extensive topic guides for each interview, conducted interviews as oral historian and sometimes assisted as audio technician. Analyzed and summarized each interview for post-production processing. Wrote blogs and summary content for web publicity, digital archive and the audio clips aired on WBUR. Worked with Our Marathon team for task management and publicity outreach throughout the project.

Writer/Researcher, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham

Needham, MA

June 2012 - September 2012

Consultant for BID-Needham's 100th anniversary celebration. Interviewed physicians and staff, read through collected papers and photos, conducted research through the Boston Public Library, Needham and Massachusetts Historical Societys to write copy for an interactive [web timeline](#) and exhibit.

Freelance Correspondent, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Boston, MA

November 2011 - March 2012

Interview BIDMC physicians, summarize information and write articles for web publication.

Writer / Presenter, September 11th Oral History 10 year anniversary

NY, NY and Boston, MA

Prepared a lecture for the Columbia University Oral History Summer Institute and commemorative events at the Bromfield School, based on my oral history interviews of FDNY in 2001 and 2002.

Consultant, JFK Library Foundation

Boston, MA

November 2010 - January 2011

Responsible for guest list for the 50th Anniversary of President Kennedy's Inauguration Ceremony in the U.S. Capitol. Researched and selected groups to represent President Kennedy's legacy, including military veterans, current serviceman, astronauts, artists, civil rights activists and members of President Kennedy's Administration.

Public Affairs Specialist, Peace Corps, New England Regional Office

Boston, MA

March 2004 - March 2009 (Pay Plan FP 1035, Grade 04, Step 05)

Responsible for the marketing and communications strategy of the New England Region Peace Corps recruitment operations, including implementation of advertising campaign, budget planning, graphic design and message development of all print and virtual media related to plan. Spokesperson for the New England Region, responsible for media pitches and fostering a positive relationship between Peace Corps and local radio, print and television news outlets. Worked to promote recruitment goals and foster relationship within target communities, including senior citizens, rural and agricultural groups, and local government and NGO health organizations. Responsible for major events planning, ranging from small, private functions with elected officials to public national and regional events with attendance of over 400. Peace Corps event organizer for the national launch of the senior citizen recruitment initiative with the AARP conference in Boston. First Peace Corps staffer to promote the use of featured Volunteer blogs in news media outlets and the first to advertise on Facebook; continually explored new and alternative marketing mediums. Manager of Intern Program.

Personal Assistant/Research Assistant to Caroline Kennedy

New York, NY

Oct. 1999 - Dec. 2002

Served as liaison to the John F. Kennedy Library and Metropolitan Museum of Art in preparation for the exhibit, *Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years*, including event planning, coordinating press releases and guest lists, assisting in the transfer of documents and letters of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and related archival materials. Wrote script for Ms. Kennedy's introduction of White House Historical Society video and drafted remarks for some public appearances, including a New York Peace Corps 40th anniversary event. Researched text for Ms. Kennedy's fifth book, *A Patriot's Handbook: Songs, Essays and Poems about the Land We Love* (Hyperion, May 2003). Coordinated with editor, literary agent and authors for her books *More Profiles in Courage* (2002) and *The Best Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis* (2001). Coordinated with Gore/Lieberman 2000 Campaign for Ms. Kennedy's speaking appearances in Wisconsin, Iowa and California and accompanied Ms. Kennedy for travel.

The September 11, 2001 Oral History Narrative and Memory Project, Columbia Univ. New York, NY

September 2001 – March 2003, June 2010

Interviewed ten NY firefighters and a WTC employee about their experience on and after September 11th. Participated in bi-monthly lectures of project coordinators, sociologists and historians.

Office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Washington, D.C

September 1997 - August 1999

Assistant to the Political Director – Organized meetings and receptions for Massachusetts political officials. Coordinated logistics and events for Senator Kennedy and family members for public and private events, including overseas travel. Wrote extensive reports for Senator Kennedy’s political travel, researched and tracked polls for 1998 elections. Drafted correspondence. Advanced events for Senator Kennedy.

Assistant to the Domestic Policy Legislative Aide – Drafted memos, letters, Congressional Record tributes.

PUBLICATIONS

“John Howard Benson and the John Stevens Shop”, *Letter Arts Review*, Spring 2007

“Waiting on Church Street,” *America*, December 9, 2002

“Innovative Study will Compare Open and Robotic Prostatectomy”, *BIDMC online*, October 2011

“Shedding Some Light on Seasonal Affective Disorder”, *BIDMC online*, December 2011

“A New York City Firehouse After September 11”, April 2012, Paper accepted for XVII International Oral History Conference, September 2012

“Physical Therapy for Breast Cancer Patients Minimizes Side Effects”, *BIDMC online*, March 2012