

Editorial

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This is the last issue of volume 56 of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*, the first volume to be published by Maney of Great Britain. As I write this, I am looking forward to the annual meeting of the American Name Society in San Francisco, 8–11 January 2009, held in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America. In addition to the usual interesting papers on names, there will be the always enjoyable ‘name of the year’ selection, organized by Cleveland Evans, Professor of Psychology at Bellevue University, Bellevue, Nebraska. See his note concerning name of the year in *Names* 56:2 (104–105), which features the most recent name of the year, *Betrayus*, a play on the name of General David Petraeus, Commander of the international forces in Iraq. The selection of the name of the year generates a great deal of positive publicity for the society and ANS members are urged to suggest potential names of the year; these can be sent to Cleveland Evans at cleveland.evans@bellevue.edu. All ANS members should consider attending the annual meeting since it provides a unique opportunity to meet with others who are interested in names, to share research interests, and to hear papers, many of which ultimately appear in formal versions in *Names*.

Useful information about *Names* and about the American Name Society is available on the Society’s website, <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ans/>, including the updated *Names* style sheet, particulars of the ANS annual meeting, *The Ehrensperger Report* detailing the professional activities of ANS members, and the *ANS Bulletin*, the newsletter of the Society edited by ANS Secretary, Thomas Gasque. The website is ably and faithfully maintained by Michael McGoff, of Binghamton University, State University of New York, who also edits *The Ehrensperger Report*.

Information relating to the publisher of *Names* can be found on the Maney homepage, <http://www.maney.co.uk>. For specific and detailed information on the publishing of *Names*, see <http://www.maney.co.uk/search?fwaction=show&fwid=786>.

Names is always looking for high quality manuscripts to consider for possible publication. Manuscripts should be sent to me at fhnues01@louisville.edu. All submissions are reviewed anonymously by at least two reviewers. Copies of the reviewers’ comments are sent to the author(s).

Books for review and questions concerning book reviews should be sent to the Book Review Editor, Chris De Vinne, at School of Arts and Sciences, Ursuline College, 2550 Lander Road, Cleveland, OH 44124, USA, cdevinne@ursuline.edu.

This is the final issue of volume 56, which serves as a reminder to all members of the American Name Society to renew their membership in order to receive

the four issues of volume 57 in 2009. Membership information is available at <http://www.maney.co.uk/search?fwaction=subscriptions&fwid=786>.

Finally, the following is a statement from Alleen and Don Nilsen concerning their prefatory note in *Names* 56:1:

Clarification from the Nilsens: Thanks to Dr. Daniel Nussbaum and his friend Nate Teibloom, we stand corrected for the glib statement we made in the preface to the *Names* issue (56.1) focusing on ethnicity. We said that Caryn Johnson changed her name to Whoopi Goldberg when she converted to Judaism. It is true that she created a new stage name for herself, but she did not seriously convert to Judaism. Instead, as Teibloom noted in an email to Nussbaum, 'It was a comedy thing mostly — the name change — the juxtaposition of Whoopi — and Goldberg — for a black woman — is a funny comedic name — and it is memorable.' That Johnson chose a surname clearly marked as Jewish relates to our focus topic on ethnicity and naming, but in ways more subtle than we had implied. First it showed that Johnson wanted to align herself with the community of Jewish comedians, and second, it gave her a whole new set of stereotypes that she could play with, as when she would refer to herself as a 'Jewish American princess' or toss off a line about her family having 'a Goldberg in there somewhere'.