**NJLA History and Preservation Section**

**General Meeting**

**January 17, 2024**

**Zoom**

**Present:** John Beekman, Jackie Oshman, E. Kim Adams, Vanessa Castaldo, Fred Pachman, Gary Saretzky, Jessica Myers, Juber Ayala, Tara Maharjan, Katrina Zwaaf, Colleen Goode, Kathlyn Kelly, Eric Schwarz, Jacqueline Silver-Morillo, Bob Stewart, Daniel Klein, Beth Zak-Cohen, Kyle Brinster, Katy White, Laura Poll, Natalie White, Ken Kauffman, Kate Jaggers, Sara Weissman, Elsalyn Palmisano, Alan Delozier

Meeting Opened 1:03pm

Agenda was posted in the chat. Approved by acclimation

Minutes from October General Meeting were posted in the chat. Approved by acclimation.

**President’s Report**: John Beekman

* We had a nice turnout for this meeting – 27 registrants.
* Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to have a hybrid meeting as part of a visit to the State Archives. Instead we will have a separate a tour of the State Archives (thank you Tara for setting that up) on February 9th. There are two tours that day at 10am (full) and 1pm (still has openings). Each tour is limited to 15 people so register ASAP. <https://forms.gle/P9BnmfaBvBiz1AAu9>
* The Spring Meeting will be a hybrid meeting and tour of Plainfield Public Library on April 12th (AM - time TBD)
* Local History Census: John emailed members of the NJLA H&P section with a Local History Census to try to compile a list of what libraries own special local collections. This list would be valuable at events such as the Monmouth County Archives Day. The list that was compiled over 10 years ago that used to be available on the NJLA website can no longer be accessed. So far, 26 libraries have responded representing 6 counties.
  + Ken asked how County Libraries should respond to the census – John suggested each branch detail their own collection so researchers will know where exactly to go when they are looking for information.
  + Please share the census with other libraries you can contact in order to expand the responses.
* Jersey City will be hosting a poster session and the Historic Preservation Conference in Jersey City in June and he would also like to have the Local History Census Results since there will be History buffs there.
* NJ History Day is coming up in June and judges are needed to evaluate entries from Middle and High School students.
* NJSAA – John has taken over the Book Awards Committee and needs judges to read nominated titles over the summer. Email him if interested.
* No Nomination Committee was established in the fall so John is asking for volunteers one more time before he appoints people to be on the Nominating Committee to find people for the 2024-2025 year (especially to be the next Vice President).

**Vice President’s Report**: Juber Ayala

* H&P submitted 10 proposals for the NJLA Annual Conference
  + 8 Panel discussions
  + 1 Make your own Zine table (which NJLA requested we do again)
  + 1 Poster session
  + H&P recruitment table

Panel Submissions (none confirmed yet)

1. A Backward Approach: The New Jersey State Archives’ Electronic Records Program **Panelists**: Tara Maharjan and Danielle Marchetti, Electronic Archivists, New Jersey State Archives
2. Breaking Barriers to Programs and Exhibits **Moderator:** Sara Hull, Head of Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections, Plainfield Public Library
3. Digging for Treasure in the NJLA Archive **Panelists:** Frederic Pachman, Monmouth Medical Center Library (moderator), Laura M. Poll, Trenton Free Public Library, Teresa Ana Bayles, Somerset County Library System **Co-sponsor:** Archives & History Committee
4. It’s Time to Get GLAMed: cataloging and description at Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums **Panelists:** Juber Ayala, Archivist, New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Newark Public Library, Deborah Popowski, Youth Services/Local History Library Assistant, Ridgewood Public Library Natasha Zaleski, Cataloging Librarian, New Jersey State Library, Katrina Zwaaf, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian, Somerset County Library System of New Jersey

**Co-sponsor:** Tech Services

1. Let’s Talk Zines - Break the barrier of having zines in your library **Panelists:** Laura M. Poll, Trenton Free Public Library (moderator), Kathy Mulholland, Freehold Public Library, Cristen Orbanus, Merchantville Public Library, Jenna Ingham, Verona Public Library

**Co-sponsor:** Young Adult Services

1. The Revolution is coming to your Library in 2026! **Speakers:** Sara Cureton and Marc Lorenc, New Jersey Historical Commission, Andrew Dauphinee, New Jersey State Library (moderator), John Beekman, Jersey City Free Public Library (introduction)
2. Solo Archivists and Interns: Tackling Archival Backlogs **Panelists:** Juber Ayala, Archivist, New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Newark Public Library, Yesenia López, Director, New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Newark Public Library, Vanessa Castaldo, Archivist, Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center
3. Diversifying History with “Demanding Justice in New Jersey” Podcasts **Presenter:** Juber Ayala, Archivist, New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Newark Public Library

* Juber and Jackie O. attended the Rutgers SOURCE meeting in November. About 15-20 students attended and asked questions about our personal experiences with interning, finding a job in archives, etc. He thanked Professor Marija Dalbello for allowing us to present and mentioned that they are looking for more presenters for their meetings – if interested, email Juber and he can get you in contact with Prof. Dalbello.

**Awards Committee Report**: Beth Zak-Cohen

* The Awards committee has not met yet, but will start soon.
* The deadline for the Susan Swartzburg Award is March 31st.
  + Gary added that there are not a lot of application from previous years (they roll over non-winners for 5 years) so they are in need of new applications.

**Web/Social Media Report:** Jacqueline Silver-Morillo

* Our Facebook page has had 240 followers in the last month.
* We reached 23 people but not a lot of likes or reposts.
* Send all fliers and press releases you would like posted to [jmorillo@acfpl.org](mailto:jmorillo@acfpl.org)

**Newsletter Report:** Kathlyn Kelly

* Thanked everyone for their contributions and feedback on previous issues.
* Deadline for the spring issue is January 31st and it will be released in mid-February.
* Please include any events you know of that will take place between March and May.
* Jessica M. suggested including information on the Swartzburg Award
  + Kathlyn said the application will be an appendix to the newsletter.
* Email her at [kkelly@sclibnj.org](mailto:kkelly@sclibnj.org)

**Other Business:**

* Katy White, our new NJLA liaison introduced herself. She has previously worked at Baker & Taylor and is currently the Vice President of the Plainsboro Public Library.
* She is assigned to 20 sections.
* NJLA is currently interviewing 10 candidates for a Lobbyist position.
* Strategic Planning Process is underway and suggestions/volunteers should consult the Executive Board.
* A Web Developer was hired to update the NJLA website.
* 5 Libraries are nearly certified under the Sustainable Library Initiative:
  + Maplewood, Willingboro, Montclair, Union, and Cranford.
* A Member survey will circulate soon asking for feedback on the direction NJLA should focus on in the near future.

**Member Updates:**

Gary Saretzky: The Princeton Preservation Group will be hosting a program with the Museum Curator from the Bruce Springsteen Archives on January 30th. Registration Link: <http://princetonpreservation.org/meet-the-bruce-springsteen-archives-and-center-for-american-music.html>

The next meeting will be in April with the tentative topic of Egyptian Temple Restoration at the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Tara Maharjan (NJ Caucus Rep. for MARAC, NJSAA, NJ State Archive) The NJ State Archives tour will be February 9th at 10am and 1pm. The Innovative Archives Award announcement will come soon. [Call-for-nominations-InnovativeArchivesAward.pdf (memberclicks.net)](https://marac.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/Call-for-nominations-InnovativeArchivesAward.pdf) Tara encouraged everyone to look into NJSAA as a great history based organization.

Katrina Zwaaf (Somerset County Library) Somerset is still cataloging and processing their local history collections. One of their newest additions is a photobook from the Plainfield Elementary School. They are also very busy with interest in their Large Format Scanner. Teresa B. has been visiting branches to see what they have in their history collections.

Beth Zak-Cohen (Newark Public Library) Newark had to postpone their opening ceremony of the NJ Reading Room due to the State of Emergency. They have rescheduled it in March. They are also still waiting to hear if they were awarded a grant to digitize newspapers.

Colleen Goode (Ocean County Library) Ocean County will be having a program on January 23rd with Holocaust Survivor Manny Lindenbaum. There are over 150 registered so far. [Calendar of Events | Ocean County Library (theoceancountylibrary.org)](https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D170975540)

Ken Kauffman (Somerset County Library) He has been having fun assisting a researcher who is doing a deep dive on minor league baseball in the area in the 1890’s. He found the old field they played on in North Plainfield on the Sanborn Maps.

* Jessica added that someone has already researched the Plainfield Crescent Cities and the information is at Plainfield Library.

Juber Ayala (Newark Public Library) This Saturday, Newark will be holding a Coquito Tasting Event for adults (21+). Both the event and parking is free and open from 2pm-4pm.

Eric Schwarz (NJ Dept. of Transportation and Clarence Dillon) Clarence Dillon had a program a in November with author Warren Zanes about his book regarding Bruce Springsteen’s album “Nebraska”. It is now rumored that Springsteen is working on a film about the making of the album. (related with the Princeton Preservation Group event). Eric also attended the Transportation Research Board meeting and presented a poster on their digitization project which can be seen here: [TRB 2024 poster - Google Drive](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ttg_SUKgiUklwSknk1KkfTDqbT2EpjFg)

Jacqueline Silver-Morillo (Atlantic City Free Public Library) the Atlantic City Research Club meets twice a month (next few dates 1/26, 2/9, 2/23) to discuss genealogy and local history topics. More information: [AC Research Club (google.com)](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScf08UITO-N5zT-m4BGejSb9KIlu4guYONvshFtvmZIt3nKig/viewform) A Black History month exhibit that will also include a banner and 25 posters hung around the library will premiere on Feb. 21st.

Vanessa Castaldo (Newark Public Library) working on the backlog in the NJ Room.

Danny Klein (through John B.) (Jersey City Public Library) Danny is now the interim Manager of the Jersey City NJ Room.

Kim Adams (New Brunswick Free Public Library) NBFPL has 4 interns who are working on a First Baptist Church project, NB Savings and Loan project, Hispanic Oral History project, and digitizing the newest collection of Hall Mills Murder materials (from the suspected murderers lawyer). Tim Corliss will be hosting a Box Making program at East Jersey Olde Town on March 16th. Space is limited so please register early (only if you can definitely attend – we don’t want you to take a spot from someone else). NBFPL also recently received a donation from Theresa Vennie with information on African Americans in the New Brunswick area. These have been digitized.

Meeting Closed 2:05pm

Next Executive Board meeting: Late February

Next General Meeting: April 12th at Plainfield Public Library

**Member Updates:**

John Wallace (Ocean County College): Member at Large with the NJLA Executive Board and current liaison to the History and Preservation Group. He will be issuing monthly reports on the operations of H&P to the NJLA E-board. If we need to contact him with any issues or questions, he can be reached at: [jwallace@ocean.edu](mailto:jwallace@ocean.edu)

Kathlyn Kelly (Somerset County Library) Please continue sending her articles for the newsletter. Somerset County will be holding their 18th Annual Journey Through the Past program on 10/8 and 10/9 which will feature historic places in the county that will be open to all visitors (even some that usually aren’t open). For more information: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-works/cultural-heritage/weekend-journey>

Somerset will also host author Joe Pompeo who will be speaking on Somerville and the Hall-Mills Murder on 10/9.

Sarah Hull (Plainfield Public Library) They held a Beginner’s Guide to Cuban Genealogy program last Saturday that had around 60 participants. They are having more programs such as Burial Rights and Wrongs and Is My House Haunted? (registration full). They have just sent their high school yearbooks to PTS to have digitized by the Internet Archive and they are currently uploading their digitized police logs to the Internet Archive (taking longer than expected).

Jackie Oshman (New Brunswick Free Public Library) NBFPL just had their 4 oldest City Directories (1855-1871) digitized through the Internet Archive as part of a grant from the National Archives. These four volumes were not digitally accessible anywhere else.

E. Kim Adams (New Brunswick Free Public Library) Gary S. held a program about Glass Plate Negatives at NBFPL in September to go along with their collection of about 250 from the Howell Family that an Intern put together a nice exhibit on. NBFPL is currently processing a large donation of Hall Mills Murder materials that will affect the next printing of Joe Pompeo’s book “Blood & Ink”. Another intern, Zack, is still working on the war collection (compiling materials from various collections). She is working with Tom Ankner on Professional Development workshops that will discuss starting an Archive in a Library setting which will possibly be at East Jersey Old Towne (Piscataway).

Jessica Myers (Retired) Asked about recruiting new members using the NJLA sign up for the Listserve.

* John B. asked John Wallace if it might be possible to get the list of members who have registered on the NJLAmembers site. He will look into it so we can reach out to non-active members.

Genevieve Girvan (Somerset County Library) Warren Township Branch has an upcoming program featuring Alan Siegal, President of the Warren Township Historical Society and local author. He will present the history of the geology and geography of Warren Township on 10/24.

Bob Stewart (Retired – Asbury Park Public Library) His current retirement activity is helping to create a comprehensive website for three cemeteries located at the intersection of Route 25 and Sycamore Avenue in Shewsbury Borough for their Historical Society. They want to compile obituaries, photos, articles, etc. to create a detailed sketch of everyone interred in the cemeteries.

Christy Lutz (Rutgers Special Collections and University Archives) The ad is currently posted for the position of Director of Special Collections. If you or anyone you know is interested, please have them apply. They will also be holding the 26th Annual NJ Book Arts Symposium in November.

John Beekman (Jersey City Free Public Library) The NJ Reading Room has uploaded the first batch of City Plans to the Internet Archive. On 10/14, they will host a program featuring Firth Haring Fabend, a historian on the Dutch era. This will coincide with a plaque unveiling that details key moments in the period of Dutch colonization, 1609-1674.

Meeting Closed 12:14pm