**NJLA History and Preservation Section**

**General Meeting**

**October 2, 2023**

**Zoom**

**Present:** John Beekman, Jackie Oshman, E. Kim Adams, Vanessa Castaldo, Fred Pachman, Gary Saretzky, Jessica Myers, John Wallace, Juber Ayala, Genevieve Girvan, Yolanda Keahey, Tara Maharjan, Katrina Zwaaf, Colleen Goode, Teresa Bayles, Sarah Hull, Kathlyn Kelly, Eric Schwarz, Jacqueline Silver-Morillo, Bob Stewart, Christie Lutz

Meeting Opened 11:03am

Minutes from June General Meeting: Motion to Approve by Beth, Second by Jessica. All in favor \*10/3/23 Edited afterwards to amend Library Update for Eric Schwarz.

Minutes from August Executive Board Meeting: can be found on the NJLAmembers website

\*10/3/23 Edited afterwards by Fred P. to amend the **NJLA Archives and History Subcommittee**  report and to move it out of H&P Section Committees.

**President’s Report**: John Beekman

* Welcomed everyone and thanked them in advance
* Introduced Executive Board members
  + President: John Beekman
  + Vice President: Juber Ayala
  + Secretary: Jacquelyn Oshman
  + Newsletter: Kathlyn Kelly
  + Social Media: Jacqueline Silver-Morillo
  + Members at Large: Gary Saretzky, Jessica Myers, NEW: Vanessa Castaldo
  + Professional Development: Tom Ankner
* Introduced John Wallace, our NJLA Executive Board liaison
* Monmouth County History and Archives Day will be Saturday October 28th at Brookdale Community College. John B. and Jackie O. plan on attending to sit at our table. Other members will be there for other tables as well (Gary for PPG and Tara for MARAC, NJSAA, etc.)
  + Gary stated that it is a fun experience and a good place to network with likeminded people. They will also be presenting the Roger McDonough Award to Ingrid Betancourt and the Maxine Lurie Award to Deborah Mercer.
* Upcoming Meetings: Possibly in Trenton in January (to meet the new NJSL staff), possibly at Plainfield Public Library in April. Both meetings would have a hybrid option during the Business Meeting portion.

**Committees:**

**Archive:** Sarah said everything is filed and going well at the Archive in Plainfield.

* John asked if we are saving any of our digital documents, but Sarah said she is printing our agendas, minutes, bylaws, etc. and storing them in paper format instead.

**Bylaws**: Two amendments were approved at the General Meeting in June. The Bylaws are reviewed every 2 years.

**Nominations**: a discussion ensued over how the Nominations Committee had been chosen in the past. According to the Bylaws, the President chooses the committee at an Executive Board meeting in the Fall. John asked for anyone interested to email him at jbeekman@jclibrary.org. If he receives no volunteers, he will choose people.

**Newsletter**: The deadline for the Fall edition will be October 27th. She was thanked for doing a marvelous job on the newsletter (something the section can be proud of) including the Summer edition with all of the photos from NJLA. Kathlyn thanked Fred for taking and sending the photos.

**Social Media**: Please get fliers, posts, photos to Jacqueline Silver-Morillo at jmorillo@acfpl.org

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

* Welcomed everyone
* Vice President’s responsibility is Programming Committee chair to recommend H&P sponsored programs at NJLA.
  + Proposals are due 12/8
  + Orientation Sessions 10/5 at 2pm and 10/16 at 11am (he will attend this one)
  + A Brainstorming session will take place in mid-late October to think about programming ideas. If anyone has any ideas, please email them to [jayala@npl.org](mailto:jayala@npl.org)
  + This year’s theme is Breaking Barriers
* John added: Laura P. emailed to say that NJLA received positive feedback on the Zine Zone at NJLA and plans on doing more next year. (not sure yet if it will be a scheduled program or passive again)

**Awards:** Beth Zak-Cohen

* The Roger McDonough Award will be presented to Ingrid Betancourt.
* Nomination applications for next year’s Susan Swartzburg Award and Roger McDonough Award will be posted soon.

**Other:**

* Eric Schwarz – commented that his summary in the minutes from the June meeting were incorrect and updated them with Jackie O.
* Jackie Oshman – Please read the minutes of the meetings. They are posted within a day or two of each meeting, and an email is sent to the Listserv. Corrections are made as soon as humanly possible.
* Beth Zak-Cohen – informed John B. that access to the NJLAmembers.org site is granted by NJLA.

**Member Updates:**

Gary Saretzky: The Princeton Preservation Group will be hosting a program on “Treating and Rehousing a Tintype Collection” on 11/2. Registration for this event available at:  <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkcOysqDMpGdZCN7sjXp3gvJso9IsEg-uV>

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)

Katrina Zwaaf (Somerset County Library) Somerset has been cataloging and processing their local history collections in a way that makes sense for public libraries yet sticks to Archival guidelines. She is currently the VP of the Technical Services Section and they are willing to collaborate on more NJLA programs with us. The next meeting date of the Technical Services Section is 10/20 at 10am.

Beth Zak-Cohen (Newark Public Library) Newark is having a program on Thursday about the Passaic River. They are anxiously awaiting the reopening of their NJ Reading Room (should open very soon)

Tara Maharjan (NJ Caucus Rep. for MARAC, NJSAA, NJ State Archive) The Innovative Archives Award will be awarded to the New Jersey Newspaper Project at Monmouth History and Archives Day. The next MARAC Conference is in two weeks at Saratoga Springs, NY. There will be a one day symposium in the spring about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Philadelphia.

Eric Schwarz (NJ Dept. of Transportation) Found the names of 5 men who died in the line of duty from the Dept. of Transportation files. These men were added to a memorial wall on September 11th. Eric was a keynote speaker at the event. He has found the names of over a dozen more that should be included in next year’s ceremony.

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).

Teresa Bayles (Somerset County Library) She is continuing to work on the local history project throughout Somerset branches. She is proud to announce that their Digital Preservation Lab is now open for residents to schedule appointments to digitize their personal items. She also discovered that Bridgewater Branch is the depository for *American Cyanamid*.

Juber Ayala (Newark Public Library) Latino Celebration Month programming started on 9/16 and had over 150 participants. They are having an exhibit featuring local Hispanic photographers titled “Images without Words”. On 10/25 Esmeralda Santiago will be hosting a book talk. On 10/19 they will host a photography class in Spanish.

Colleen Goode (Ocean County Library) Ocean County will host Jersey Devil Palooza on October 20th. (<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/jersey-devil-palooza>)

Vanessa Castaldo (Newark Public Library) NJ Reading Room is about 97% complete so they hope to reopen soon.

Jacqueline Silver-Morillo (Atlantic City Free Public Library) is currently our Social Media Coordinator. Please send her photos or fliers to post at [jmorillo@acfpl.org](mailto:jmorillo@acfpl.org). Atlantic City is holding a program on Friday about Building a Family Tree and another program on 10/20 on Deciphering Old Photographs using microscopes.

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