**NJLA History and Preservation Section**

**General Meeting**

**April 12, 2024**

**Plainfield Public Library (hybrid)**

**Present:** John Beekman, Jacquelyn Oshman, Theresa Bayles, E. Kim Adams, Gary Saretzky (V), Jessica Myers, Juber Ayala, Katrina Zwaaf, Kathlyn Kelly, Daniel Klein (V), Beth Zak-Cohen (V), Laura Poll (V), Sarah Hull, Hilde Creager (V), Genevieve Girvan, Sally Weiner, Mary Ellen Rogan, Jane Thoner, Robert Helmbrecht, Deb Schiff, Robert Schriek (V), Zack Brackett

Meeting Opened 10:30

Agenda was circulated and emailed to virtual participants.

Minutes from January General Meeting were available. Motion to approve by Sarah Hull. Approved by acclimation.

**President’s Report**: John Beekman

* Thanked Sarah Hull and the staff of Plainfield for hosting our first in person meeting since COVID (and our first ever hybrid meeting)
* Nominations Committee – no one volunteered so John reached out to potential candidates; strong-armed Jacqueline Silver-Morillo to run for Vice President, Juber will be incoming President, and Jacquelyn Oshman will continue as Secretary. Jessica Myers has stepped down as Member at Large but the bylaws say we need “Up to 4” so it is not imperative to fill the position (E. Kim Adams suggested Zach Brackett (John will speak to him after meeting))
* The new Executive Board will take effect on July 1st and planning for the 2025-2026 slate should ideally begin on July 2nd.
* H&P and MARAC held an in person tour of the State Archives and State Museum on February 19th. Thanks to Tara for organizing two tours. They had a great turnout. John was particularly interested in the Grant Castner photo exhibit in the State Museum
* Submitted a poster proposal to the NJ Historic Preservation Conference on behalf of H&P and the Jersey City NJ Room which was approved.
* John is making the poster to be displayed at events geared towards non-Librarians such as History and Archives Day to promote our organization. This will be brought to NJLA.
* We should be having a general meeting at the NJLA Conference, but nothing has been set yet.

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

* We will have lots of representation at the NJLA Conference but unfortunately, some H&P sessions were double booked so members will have to choose. The full list of presentations is attached to the end of this report.
  + Gary S. reminded everyone that the Swartzburg Award will be given out at the awards ceremony on Thursday night at the NJLA Conference and asked if we would be having our general meeting at the Conference.
  + Gary S. mentioned that there will be a panel at NJLA at 3pm on Friday (not H&P) regarding “What to do when you retire”

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

* The winner of the Susan Swartzburg Award for 2024 is Laura Poll.
  + Nominees that didn’t win will be eligible again next year
* McDonough Award nominations are now open. The deadline is August 1st and it will be awarded at History and Archives Day in the fall.

**NJLA Archives and History Committee Report**: Theresa Bayles (Fred P. absent)

* The first meeting was held last week that included a tour of the collection at the Talking Book and Braille Center in order to create a Strategic plan.
* The committee is working on contacting other sections and NJLA in order to collect digital and paper reports from them to keep in the Archive.
* They discussed the panel to be held at the NJLA Conference
* They realized some information in the collection had already been digitized by NJLA so they will need to inventory that information so it isn’t duplicated.

**Web/Social Media Report:** Jacqueline Silver-Morillo (via John Beekman)

* Our Facebook page had 1 new follower in the last month.
* We reached 45 people and had engagement on 9 posts
* Because Jacqueline is our incoming VP, a new Web/Social Media Coordinator is needed. If interested, reach out to John Beekman – he will send out an email.

**Newsletter Report:** Kathlyn Kelly

* Thanked everyone for their contributions and feedback on previous issues.
* Deadline for the summer issue is May 3rd and it will be released in mid-late May (hopefully before NJLA).
* Please include any events you know of that will take place between June and August.
* Email her at [kkelly@sclibnj.org](mailto:kkelly@sclibnj.org)
  + John stated the he believes our newsletter is the best section newsletter and thanked Kathlyn for her excellent work
  + Jessica M. thanked Kathlyn for her enthusiasm
  + Sarah Hull mentioned the newsletter is a group effort and takes everyone submitting articles to keep it going.

**NJLA Liason**: Absent

**Other Business:**

* E. Kim Adams has been looking into Professional Development workshops to be held at East Jersey Old Town (Piscataway). The first one was held in March and was a box making workshop by Tim Corlis. Two more are in the works for either May or September featuring Tara Maharjan who will present on Finding Aids, and Deyani Feige (CCAHA) who will present on Basic Preservation for smaller institutions. A workshop on Administration and Management is still being discussed.
* Gary S. stated that the Princeton Preservation Group is looking for presenters for its next round of meetings. They are held quarterly via zoom.

**Member Updates:**

Theresa Bayles (Somerset County) – Tech. Services manager. She has been visiting all of the branches to find their local history information that needs to be cataloged and digitized. Their recent work has been on digitizing Scrapbooks and postcards from the Bound Brook branch using Biblioboard (which is then uploaded to DPLA).

Katrina Zwaaf (Somerset County) – Tech. Services. Cataloging the local history treasures found at the branches including some very unique items with special cataloging.

Juber Ayala (Newark Public Library – NJHRIC) – On Monday, April 15th, staff members will be meeting with the Assembly at the State House advocating for funding to renovate the space (an addition to a bond they received previously)

Jessica Myers (retired) – She is stepping down as Member at Large and is no longer driving so she will not be available to pick up the awards anymore. She will try to attend one day of the conference.

E. Kim Adams (New Brunswick Free Public Library) – The RU interns are finishing up their hours at the library. One intern, James, has completed an oral history project about Latino families in New Brunswick. A new intern over the summer will be updating information on the Henry Guest House, a building on the library campus that is on the Historic Register. Intern Zach Brackett is continuing to sort and scan the Hall Mills Murder materials that were donated to the library in 2023 (16 items up on Archive.org so far). She is also preparing programming ideas for RevNJ 250.

Sarah Hull (Plainfield Public Library) – Plainfield recently completed their “History Happened Here” video for Revolution NJ. Next Saturday, April 20th, they will hold an Open House for patrons to bring in photos that show the Plainfield 4th of July Parade over the course of it’s 100 years to compile into a retrospective. The Tri County History Fair will take place on May 4th and is open to libraries outside of the three mentioned counties. Only 11 organizations have signed up so far. The Fair will feature speakers Lindsey Smith (**Downsizing Heirlooms and Collectibles**) and Linda Caldwell Epps (**Open the Door, I'll Get it Myself: The Great Migration to New Jersey**).

Mary Ellen Rogan (Plainfield Public Library) – First time attendee at H&P. She is currently the Director of Plainfield but is a Retired Archivist from NYPL. She is a member of the DAR and currently working with the RevNJ 250 planning. She is working on a database of Essex County soldiers that is on the library website.

Sally Weiner (Plainfield Public Library) – The Archive is continuing to process and scan materials including Blueprints (editing and adding them to ContentDM). There is a display currently in their lobby.

Robert Helmbrech (Somerset County Library) – Not currently an H&P member but he is gaining some responsibilities at his branch due to the local history collection project that the library is conducting. He is on the Local History Programming committee at the library.

Zach Brackett (New Brunswick Free Public Library) – About to complete his Masters in Library Science at RU and is currently interning at New Brunswick Free Public Library. He was also just promoted to Senior Library Assistant at Metuchen Public Library.

Deb Schiff (The College of NJ) – Deb is a Member at Large for MARAC. She is currently working on year 2 of the “Saving America’s Treasure” grant. They are also creating a NJ Normal Schools Hub on Archivematica with a small digitization army. The library is partnering with the Department for Women’s Gender and Sexuality on a grant application to digitize and preserve at risk recordings such as VHS, film and audio recordings. The library is losing a large portion of their budget do to a shortage at the school level, but is receiving some donations. The library has created a General Archives Fund in memory of donors. She also gave an update on MARAC – their new Strategic Plan was approved. They had an in person symposium in Philadelphia recently and will have a virtual conference in the Fall (alternating in person and virtual moving forward). They are currently looking for a Programming CoChair and other committee chairs – check the website if you are interested.

* E. Kim Adams inquired about MARAC creating a Ron Becker Award – Deb said the discussion was tabled for the future because there are still many questions regarding annual funding and criteria for nominations.

Jacquelyn Oshman (New Brunswick Free Public Library) – Had an article published in the NJLA newsletter regarding our Digitized City Directory project provided by the Community Webs program of Internet Archive.

Genevieve Girvan (Somerset County-Warren) – On April 23rd, they will host a presentation by Alan A. Siegel on the Hofheimer family, their estate, and its legacy.

John Beekman (Jersey City Public Library) – Chief Librarian. They were recently awarded a digitization grant from the Community Webs program of the Internet Archive (so new it isn’t even publicly announced yet!). They will be digitizing municipal record books and scrapbooks from the 1960s. They are one of 5 libraries awarded this years’ grant. Jersey City is also in the process of renovating the interior of the building.

Beth Zak-Cohen (Newark Public Library) – The Reading Room Opening Reception finally took place and was an exciting event. The Newark News digitization project will be available soon.

Gary Saretzky (Retired – Monmouth County Archives) – He is keeping busy as the head of the Princeton Preservation Group. They meet quarterly via zoom and their next meeting on April 15th will discuss the Egyptian Temple Restoration at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. He has also been working on programs about dating 19th Century photographs and photography in NJ resources. Check out his website for information on these programs and to purchase books [www.saretzky.com](http://www.saretzky.com)

Robert Schriek (Library of the Chathams) – Robert is a new member of H&P. Their library recently had a CAPES report done by Sally Weiner of Plainfield. They are currently renovating their library and adding more space for their local history room.

Danny Klein (Jersey City Public Library) – Danny is the interim manager of the NJ Room at Jersey City. He is hosting Jersey City Trivia Night on Monday, April 15th and they will be having a virtual program on Earth Day (April 22) with Jordan Howell. On May 11th, they will have a launch of their digitization project, which was funded by a combination of a county grant in 2023 and the Internet Archive grant in 2024.

Hilde Creager (RU Student) – Heard about H&P from SOURCE.

Laura Poll (Trenton Public Library) – Trenton recently found and identified 2 long missing paintings from the Joseph Bonapart Collection (1930s era). Of the six, only one is now missing.

Meeting Closed 11:52pm and members then took a tour of the Archive.

Next General Meeting: NJLA Conference either May 30th or 31st

**NJLA History & Preservation Section Sponsored Programs for**

**2024 Annual Conference**

**Thursday and Friday, May 30-31, 2024**

* Zine Zone Creative Space
  + Laura M. Poll, Kathy Mulholland, Cristen Orbanus and Jenna Ingham
    - Exhibit Hall, all day

**Thursday, May 30, 2024**

* A Backward Approach: The New Jersey State Archives’ Electronic Records Program
  + Tara Maharjan and Danielle Marchetti
    - 3:40 pm - 4:30
* Let’s Talk Zines - Break the barrier of having zines in your library
  + Laura M. Poll, Kathy Mulholland, Cristen Orbanus and Jenna Ingham
    - 3:40 pm - 4:30
* It’s Time to Get GLAMed: Cataloging and Description at Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums
  + Katrina Zwaaf, Natasha Zaleski, Heidi Warbasse and Juber Ayala
    - 4:40 pm - 5:30

**Friday, May 31, 2024**

* The Revolution is coming to your Library in 2026!
  + Sara Cureton, Marc Lorenc, Andrew Dauphinee, and John Beekman
    - 9:00 am - 9:50
* Solo Archivists and Interns: Tackling Archival Backlogs
  + Juber Ayala, Yesenia López and Vanessa Castaldo
    - 9:00 am - 9:50
* Digging for Treasure in the NJLA Archive
  + Frederic Pachman, Laura M. Poll and Teresa Ana Bayles
    - 2:10 pm - 3:00