

In commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New Jersey Library Association – History & Preservation Section, we are publishing an updated version of this article, originally featured in the 2013 April issue of *The Chronicle*.

## HISTORICAL VIGNETTES OF THE HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SECTION FROM THE ARCHIVES....

By Elsalyn Palmisano and Frederic C. Pachman, Altschul Medical Library

As we note the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our **History and Preservation Section**, it should be remembered that forty (40) years have passed since the **Preservation Section** had its inception in April of 1983.

Back in April 1961 there was a **Bibliography Section** that published a newsletter *New Jersey Bibliography*. There were numerous subcommittees for projects and bibliographies including "New Jersey and the Negro" resulting in a bibliography on the subject.

The Section membership included Librarian Bernie Bush, who later became the first Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission. Due to his influence and that of Donald Sinclair of Rutgers University Libraries, the **Bibliography Section** was transformed into the **History and Bibliography Section** on May 3, 1968 with both gentlemen as officers. Under the leadership of Rebecca Huehleck from the Trenton Public Library who served as first Section President, this group evolved and prospered throughout the 1970's in the 1980's as one of New Jersey's foremost historical groups. During the term of President Elsalyn Palmisano (1981-1982) the Section fielded the following committees:

- ▶ Afro-American Committee
- ▶ Graphics Committee
- ▶ Library History Committee
- ▶ New Jersey Folklife Comm.
- ▶ Genealogy and Family History Committee
- ▶ Oral History Committee
- ▶ New Jersey Bibliographer Committee
- ▶ New Jersey Historical Research Committee

Programs included:

- ▶ Workshop on map librarianship and a bibliography of New Jersey maps was published in 1972.
- ▶ Program at the NJLA annual conference at the Boardwalk Regency Hotel in Atlantic City on April 30, 1980 "Family History and Genealogical Resources in New Jersey: Locating and Using Them to Build Library Support".

The first issue of *The Chronicle* appeared during Fall of 1977 under the editorship of Elsalyn Palmisano, who also provided the enduring title for this periodical. The earliest content found within the pages of *The Chronicle* mirrored what was happening among members of the **History and Bibliography Section**.

A separate entity within the NJLA structure appeared by March 4, 1983 when an organizational meeting for what would later be known as the **Preservation Section** was held at the Dana Library in Newark. Fred Pachman was one of the signatories on the original petition to the NJLA Executive Board. On April 25, 1984 the NJLA **Preservation Section** was officially formed with creation of bylaws and appointment of an Executive Board with Madelyn DeSantis and Susan Swartzburg as co-presidents. The first program was at the New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference in Atlantic City dated April 24, 1983, titled "Preservation Action for the 80's".

In September of 1984, State Librarian Barbara Weaver contracted with the Northeast Documents Conservation Center to conduct a study of the needs for preservation of collections materials in New Jersey libraries and to develop a statewide plan for addressing those needs. Project director Howard Lowell of the Oklahoma State Library presented the document to Section members who were appointed to the Conservation Study Advisory Committee. One of the results was an active grants program for preservation activities in New Jersey libraries, funded by the New Jersey State Library.

Our first issue of the *Preservation Section Newsletter* dated Fall 1985 was edited by Susan Swartzburg; the last newsletter is dated Spring/Summer 1996 Volume 12, Issue 3 also edited by Susan Swartzburg. Sporadic issues appeared during the rest of the decade until a major resurrection occurred during the Spring of 1998 with the appearance of the first modern-day issue of *The Chronicle*. Betty Steckman of the New Jersey State Library served as the first editor for this iteration of the newsletter which remains the primary news and publicity organ for the NJLA History & Preservation Section. Published quarterly, *The Chronicle* is a terrific resource for information on joint programming with other preservation groups, and lists a calendar of events, along with exhibits and programs at members' Libraries. To view issues, visit <http://njlamembers.org/hpchronicle>.

**Preservation Section Executive Board November 1987**

(left to right) Sally Roggia, Elsaly Palmisano, Frederic Pachman, Diane Solomon, Paul Nee, Susan Swartzburg, Gary Saretzky



There was a joint program of the **History and Bibliography Section** and **Preservation Section** at the NJLA Spring Conference at Resorts International in Atlantic City on May 11, 1988 titled "Issues in Preservation of Local History Collections". A memorable reception hosted by the Atlantic City Public Library and sponsored by both Sections followed the program.

The **Preservation Section** was actively offering programs at NJLA annual meetings including:

- ▶ 'Coping with Library Disasters' with speakers Ron Becker and Charles Cummings at the November 1989 Fall meeting.
- ▶ 'Exhibiting Books and Manuscripts: Preservation Problems' at the April 26, 1990 meeting.

**In the early 1990's:**

- ▶ American Library Association President Patricia Burger devoted the 1990 Mid-Winter Conference program to Preservation across the entire range of ALA membership.
- ▶ There was a partnership between the **Preservation Section** and the Regional Library Cooperative V - Preservation Committee, which resulted in the sponsorship of preservation film festivals and specialty workshops such as pest control and book repair.
- ▶ Cooperation between the **Preservation Section** and the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference resulted in a program at the MARAC meeting in May 1990 in New Brunswick titled 'Preservation in the 90's'.
- ▶ New Jersey State Librarian Louise Minervino convened the Advisory Committee on Preservation and Access whose membership contained numerous Section members.
- ▶ Promoted and staffed by Susan Swartzburg of Rutgers University Libraries, the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies began to offer a post-Masters certificate in 'Preservation Management'. H&P Section members Elsalyn Palmisano, Frederic Pachman, and Bob Stewart were the earliest graduates of this program.

**Rutgers SCILS inaugural Preservation Management Course May 19, 1989**



Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, both the **History & Bibliography** and **Preservation Sections** continued to thrive; and since the work of both entities often complimented each other they officially merged into one group known as the **History and Preservation Section** in 1998. The first Section Presidents of the modern era were Korin Rosenkrans and George Cooke who continued a legacy of historical awareness and advocacy which remains active among libraries statewide.

In 2002, the Section, in cooperation with the New Jersey Historical Commission, New Jersey Caucus of the MidAtlantic Regional Archives Conference and the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance created the Roger McDonough Librarianship Award. Named in honor of a long time NJLA member and New Jersey State Librarian, it has been presented to a succession of librarians and archivists who have exhibited "excellence in the service of the New Jersey history research community and general public".

In 2003, the Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award was initiated to recognize "a New Jersey Library Association member who, over a substantial number of years, has made exceptional contributions to the awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of archival and library materials in New Jersey". At the NJLA conference on April 1, 2003 Section President Joe DaRold presented the inaugural award to Elsalyn Palmisano. The Award honors the memory of the Rutgers Preservation Librarian whose leadership in New Jersey and globally, inspired and influenced many others in our profession, specifically in the areas of preservation and book arts. (Please see our article in the Winter 2023 issue of *The Chronicle* that celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this honor: <http://njlamembers.org/sites/njlamembers.org/files/CHRONICLE%20WINTER%202023.pdf> ).

One factor in the growth of the History & Preservation Section has been the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) managed by the New Jersey Caucus of the MidAtlantic Regional Archives Conference and sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Commission. More than 550 New Jersey colleges, churches, historical societies, museums and libraries have received a CAPES survey and some organizations have gone on to join NJLA. Our Association's first survey was conducted by Elsalyn Palmisano and Frederic Pachman in 1996 at the downtown Trenton headquarters; and the 2022 survey by Gary Saretzky of archives and historical materials took place at the New Jersey State Library – Talking Book and Braille Center.

**History & Preservation Section Executive Board at 2013 NJLA conference**

(left to to right) Kim Adams, Paul Martinez, Jessica Myers, Danny Klein, Deborah Schiff, Ken Kaufman, Sarah Hull



The History & Preservation Section is unique among NJLA committees and sections, in that it maintains an official archive of materials documenting its history, including the predecessor History and Bibliography and Preservation Sections. Originally housed at the Monmouth County Archives, Gary Saretzky, Mary Hussey and Jenifer Gundry processed the initial collection and prepared a finding aid. Currently our archives are stored and managed at the Plainfield Public Library by Sarah Hull. For additional information, link to the finding aid (<https://njlamembers.org/sites/njlamembers.org/files/NJLA%20H%26P%20finding%20aid%202023.pdf>).

Our Section has been a strong supporter of the annual NJLA conference, preparing four or five programs every year. Often co-sponsoring with other sections, the topics include developing local history collections, specialty preservation topics, and an author program that promotes New Jersey history books. For the last ten years we have staffed an exhibit table at conference where our volunteers provide information and outreach to all members of NJLA.

**History & Preservation Section table at the NJLA Annual Conference 2022 in Atlantic City**  
(left to right) Kathlyn Kelly, Tara Maharjan, Ken Kaufman, Laura Poll, Elsalyn Palmisano



Through promotion and lobbying by Section members, the executive board of NJLA established an Archives and Records Management Task Force in 2021. After meeting for a year, the group recommended that an Archives and History Committee, originally a standing committee in 1972, be re-established and charged with “retention and preservation of the archival material of the New Jersey Library Association” and to “document the history of NJLA”. Recommendations from the 2022 CAPES survey will serve as a template to guide the committee in its work.

## Appendix A

### Roster of **Preservation Section** Presidents:

1983-1984	Madelyn DeSantis, Rutgers University Libraries Susan Swartzburg, Rutgers University Libraries
1984-1985	Susan Swartzburg, Rutgers University Libraries
1985-1986	Paul Nee, Atlantic City Public Library
1986-1987	Gary Saretzky, Educational Testing Service
1987-1988	Elsalyn Palmisano, Ann May School of Nursing, Jersey Shore Medical Center.
1988-1989	Diane Solomon, Morristown Morris Township Jt. Free Library
1989-1990	Frederic C. Pachman, Altschul Medical Library, Monmouth Medical Center
1990-1991	Bob Stewart, Asbury Park Public Library
1991-1992	Nan Wright, Trenton Public Library
1992-1993	Lois Densky-Wolff, Morristown Morris Township Jt. Free Library
1993-1994	Susan Gulick, Morristown Morris Township Jt. Free Library
1994-1995	Peggy Hutchinson, Caldwell College Library
1995-1996	George Cooke, Franklin Lakes Public Library
1996-1997	Chrys Jochem, Morristown Morris Township Jt. Free Library

## Appendix B

### Roster of **History and Preservation Section** Presidents:

1997-1998	Korin Rosenkrans, Morristown Morris Township Free Library
1998-1999	George Cooke, Oradell Public Library
1999-2000	George Cooke, Oradell Public Library
2000-2001	JoAnn Cotz, Seton Hall University Library
2001-2002	Anthony E. Lee, Seton Hall University Library
2002-2003	Joseph DaRold, Plainfield Public Library
2003-2004	Joseph DaRold, Plainfield Public Library
2004-2005	Alan DeLozier, Seton Hall University Library
2005-2006	Lawrence Green, Morristown Morris Township Joint Free Library
2006-2007	Bruce Bardarik, Paterson Public Library
2007-2008	Joseph DaRold, Plainfield Public Library
2008-2009	Bob Golon, Plainfield Public Library
2009-2010	Nancy Madasci, Centenary College Library
2010-2011	John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library
2011-2012	Mary McMahon, Morristown Morris Township Joint Free Library
2012-2013	Paul Martinez, Montclair State University Library
2013-2014	Jessica Myers, Plainfield Public Library
2014-2015	Danny Klein, Jersey City Public Library
2015-2016	Deb Schiff, Chester Library
2016-2017	Carolyn Dorsey, Morristown Morris Township Joint Free Library
2017-2018	Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library
2018-2019	Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library
2019-2020	Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library
2020-2021	Ken Kaufman, Somerset County Library System
2021-2022	Beth Zak-Cohen, Newark Public Library
2022-2023	Beth Zak-Cohen, Newark Public Library
2023-2024	John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library

Help us commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the History & Preservation Section at the annual conference of the New Jersey Library Association  
 Join us on Thursday June 1, 2023 from 12:00 noon until 1:00pm in the Sea Isle Board Room of Harrahs Resort Conference Center

1  
9  
9  
8

**HISTORY AND  
PRESERVATION  
SECTION**

2  
0  
2  
3

Join us at the History and Preservation Section Table during the conference.  
 Look for our updated poster.



**HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SECTION**  
**NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**



**WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?**

Archivists, librarians, conservators, educators, oral historians and local historians.

**JOIN**

[www.njla.org/join-us](http://www.njla.org/join-us)

If you are already a member of the New Jersey Library Association, log-in and sign up for our listserv!



**WHAT DO WE DO?**

We meet to conduct the business of the section and host lively and interesting continuing education/professional development workshops (e.g., general preservation, photo process identification, copyright issues, book repair, creating a local history collection, exhibit text writing, municipal records, and digitization projects) with the goal of better serving our patrons. We also encourage members of other groups to visit, share ideas, learn from colleagues, and seek new ways of approaching archival collections care and management challenges.

We tour special collections and archives at NJ institutions.

We promote the work of NJ archivists, conservators, and librarians, as well as their institutions, to raise awareness of the amazing people and resources available to researchers.

We encourage and promote publications spotlighting NJ history, especially those concerned with the preservation of historic resources (and those that thank their archivists!).

We recognize the achievements of NJ institutions and professionals in the fields of history and preservation through our awards: the Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award and Roger McDonough Librarianship Award.

We provide liaisons between the Section and other agencies and organizations engaged in the fields of history and preservation.

We create and implement exhibits and displays. We create conference programming for the New Jersey Library Association annual conference.

We keep an archive of the section's work.

We publish *The Chronicle*, a quarterly publication of our section and showcases not only our Section activities but programs and projects by our membership.

**WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?**

To become much more of a resource to our fellow NJLA members.

To help our colleagues be better equipped for preservation challenges they may face.

To work more collaboratively with other organizations in the fields of history, archives, and preservation



**WHERE DO WE WORK?**

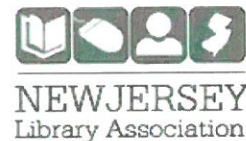
- Public libraries
- College and university libraries
- Special libraries (such as hospitals)
- Historical societies
- Corporate libraries
- Private consultancies
- State and county libraries
- Government archives and libraries
- Museums

**CONTACT US**

historyandpreservat  
 @njlamembers.org  
[njlamembers.org/hpsection](http://njlamembers.org/hpsection)



# The Chronicle



NEWJERSEY  
Library Association

*The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA*

SPRING 2023

Volume 24, Number 4

## **2022-2023 H&P Section Executive Board**

President: Beth Zak-Cohen  
Vice President: John Beekman  
Secretary: Jacquelyn Oshman  
Past President: Ken Kaufman

### **Members-at-Large**

Tom Ankner  
Juber Ayala  
Jessica Myers  
Gary Saretzky

### **Ex Officio**

Tara Maharjan  
MARAC NJ Caucus  
Michele Stricker  
State Library Liaison

To submit articles, news or calendar events to **The Chronicle**, email Kathlyn Kelly at [kkelly@sclibnj.org](mailto:kkelly@sclibnj.org).

If possible, please include images with captions/attribution.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Beth Zak-Cohen, Section President

Hello all,

As I finish out my term as President, I want to thank all the members for their wonderful work on the H&P Section for the past two years, especially my Vice Presidents Richetta Wilson Lobban and John Beekman, and Past President Ken Kaufman.

We hope to see you all at the conference this June. Be sure to check out all the H&P sessions, which you can now see on the [Conference website](#). Remember, we have our meeting and 25th anniversary celebration on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 12 PM in the Sea Isle Board Room!

We have ordered some special "swag" (ribbons and a new poster) for the anniversary so we'll be able to show our H&P pride around the conference. We don't have direct funding from NJLA, so if you'd like to contribute to our anniversary celebration, please e-mail me at [szakcohen@npl.org](mailto:szakcohen@npl.org) or find me at the conference!

We've completed our elections for the year and will introduce the new officers in the Summer Issue. We're so happy to have Juber Ayala as our new Vice President and John Beekman as President for the coming year.

In this 25th anniversary year for H&P let's take a moment to appreciate also all the great programs, networking and other work that's taken place over the past 25 years!

## **In This Issue**

President's Message p. 1-2  
History & Preservation Section Conference Schedule p. 2  
New at the Conference p. 3  
Historical Vignettes of the H & P Section p. 4-10  
Professional Development Committee Seeking Your Input p. 11-12  
2023 Susan Swartzburg Award Winner p. 13-14  
Call for Nominations: Roger H. McDonough Award p. 15

MARAC News: New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project Receives  
2023 Innovative Archives Award p.16  
CAPES Program p. 17-18  
Events p. 19-25  
Calendar of Events p. 26-27  
Announcement of Changes to Bylaws p. 28