

History and Preservation Section
Regular Section Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2022
Online via Zoom Platform

Attendees: Tom Ankner, John Beekman, Colleen Goode, Jacquelyn Oshman, Ken Kaufman, Kathlyn Kelly, Jessica Myers, Gary Saretzky, Beth Zak-Cohen, Mary Boykoff, Tara Maharjan, Robert Stewart, Jacqueline Silver-Morillo, Elsalyn Palmisano, Laura Poll, Lindsey Meyer, Christie Lutz, Frederic Pachman, Juber Ayala, Nancy Madacsi, Sara Weissman, E. Frangakis

The meeting was opened at approximately 2:02 p.m. by Beth Zak-Cohen, president.

Minutes from the last general meeting, January 24, 2022, were put on the table to be approved. Elsalyn Palmisano motioned to vote on the approval of the minutes and Ken Kaufman seconded the motion. All in favor and the minutes were approved.

New Officers as of July 1st:

President - Beth Zak-Cohen (for one more year)

Note: Richetta cannot continue and asks that members stop including her on emails

Past President - Continues to be Ken Kaufman for one more year

Vice President - John Beekman

Secretary - Jacquelyn Oshman

Professional Development Coordinator - Tom Ankner

Social Media Coordinator – Jacqueline Silver-Morillo

Newsletter Editor (The Chronicle) - Kathlyn Kelly

Archivist - Sarah Hull

Members at Large - Tom Ankner, Gary Saretzky, Juber Ayala, and Jessica Myers

NJLA Conference Programs Report - Beth Zak-Cohen:

<https://njlaconference.info/sections-and-roundtables/history-preservation-section>

- **Exhilarating Zines: Zines in NJ Libraries**

What's a zine, and are you wondering how to implement them at your library? Panelists will discuss how they're using, collecting, and creating these hand-made, small-run self-published works. Laura Poll at Trenton Public Library will talk about creating a zine library and history-based zines. Christie Lutz will discuss the development of Rutgers University's zine collection. Jodi Silverman will discuss creating SCLSNJ's teen e-zine. In the second half of the program, participants will have a chance to create their own physical or digital zines!

- **Now More Than Ever – Expanded Online Sources for Local History Research**

With buildings closed for extended periods, the Covid-19 era highlighted the value of remotely accessible resources. Fortunately, archives and technologists have been hard at work digitizing

records and creating tools to access digital content. This session highlights the digital collections hosted by the NJ State Archives as well as tools for doing “house history.” Knowing these resources can add value to library services even in the absence of a dedicated local history collection.

- **NJ Authors Speak**

NJ authors: Rick Geffken and Joe Pompeo.

Geffken presents his book *STORIES OF SLAVERY IN NJ*, History Press, 2021. Here he shows that Dutch and English settlers brought the first enslaved people to NJ in America and that NJ was the last state to abolish slavery.

Pompeo introduces: *BLOOD AND INK*, Harper Collins, 2022. He reveals clues in library archives. He re-examines the Halls-Mills unsolved double 1922 homicide and its influence on rise of American tabloid media.

- **Who’s Out There? Information on Various Professional Historical Associations**

Have you ever needed help in answering specific questions regarding obscure history? Have you ever wondered whether anyone has the information to help a patron complete a research paper on 18th-century transportation systems in New Jersey? Well, wonder no more. This program will inform you of the various professional historical associations and resources that will become your go-to sources when searching for such answers.

Tabling at NJLA - Beth Zak-Cohen:

(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Y8ycmJRMT7lhiH7bDYSkAjcNUNWDFWqbdyBinvgNLE/edit#gid=0>)

We will need volunteers to cover the H&P table where we will have a poster and handouts.

Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) April 27, 2022 Program – Gary Saretzky:

Register here:

<https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkc-GhqT0rHNRNyTNH8NnBQOnmxeEhi291> or <http://princetonpreservation.org/>

- This program is cosponsored by H&P, MARAC, and PPG.
- **Date:** It is on April 27, 2022, 1pm via Zoom
- Janette Pardo, Reference Librarian, Wayne Public Library, and Coordinator, CAPES Debra Schiff, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at The College of New Jersey, and CAPES Consultant CAPES (Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service) is the free consulting service provided by the MARAC/NJ Caucus (MidAtlantic Regional Archives Conference/New Jersey Caucus) with funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

- Since 1989, CAPES consultants have produced more than 500 reports for archives, libraries, historical societies and other organizations to help enhance archival collection management.
- This online free PPG program will cover: A brief overview of the origins of the CAPES program, Who and what qualifies for a CAPES evaluation, How the CAPES program works, Second CAPES evaluations, Spreading the word about CAPES, Using CAPES reports to get grants.

Awards Committee Report - Ken Kaufman:

- 2022 Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award – Deadline extended to April 15, 2022; This award honors the memory of a librarian whose leadership in New Jersey inspired and influenced many others in our profession, particularly in the areas of preservation of library materials, archives, and the book arts.
- **Elsalyn Palmisano** – the 20th Anniversary of the Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award is next year.
- **Tara Maharjan** - McDonough Librarianship Award – Deadline is August 01, 2022; the award is named for Roger H. McDonough, New Jersey State Librarian from 1947 to 1975. Beginning in 2002 the NJSAA, along with the New Jersey Historical Commission, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference New Jersey Caucus, and the New Jersey Library Association History and Preservation Section, has given an award to a librarian or archivist or manuscript curator for excellence in service to the New Jersey history research community and/or the general public.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/njstudiesacademicalliance/awards/roger-mcdonough-librarianship-award?authuser=0>)

Archives Committee Report - Frederic Pachman:

- **NJLA Records Retention and Archives Task Force**

Frederic Pachman reported that due to the efforts of NJLA President Kate Jagers and members of the H&P Section, a task force was formed, meetings held, and the Executive Board has approved re-establishing an Archives & History Committee. This will take effect in July 2022. Elsalyn Palmisano commented that there will be eight members on the committee, and you can sign-up on the NJLA website. Ken Kaufman talked about the Dag Bulman bequest to NJLA and how some of this may be used to support work of the committee.

- **American Library Association Preservation Week**

Frederic Pachman commented that this was an annual activity sponsored by the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, this year it will be celebrated April 24 – 30. The H&P

Section should take advantage of the activities and materials developed for Preservation Week and promote it through NJLA and LibraryLinkNJ. This will help give our Section added visibility and promote our own programming and events.

Web/Social Media Report - Kathlyn Kelly:

Statistics from Facebook

- 11 total posts from the beginning of the year, including History and Preservation section, Plainfield Public Library, and Newark Public Library.
- 229 followers
- Kathlyn stated our reach seems to have peaked in between the first week of January and February the 2nd, when we reached a 134 people, and our post-reached average for the month of March was 119 people which is up 190%, but it dropped in the last part of the month.
- Most popular posts are in January for our first meeting; other 2 most popular posts were for the Roger McDonough Librarianship Award and NJLA conference.
- Peak online viewing time was around 4 p.m.
- We have 66% women and 32% men among our fans on Facebook
- Any announcements please contact Kathlyn: kkelly@sclibnj.org
- People love seeing announcements with photographs, so if you have photographs please submit with the announcements

Member Updates:

Colleen Goode – Deadline for **the Chronicle** is May 10th

John Beekman – So, the only thing I will report there's a lot going on, but I those of you who are interested in Jersey City history. I am on the board of the Museum of Jersey City.

Steve Morse website for access by location is ready to go too.

Jacquelyn Oshman – No updates

Jessica Myers – No updates

Gary Saretzky – You know I'm retired. So, I don't have any institutional report to give. But I did want to just raise the issue of maybe in the future getting a status report on the Digital Public Library of America, regarding New Jersey, DPLA is a terrific resource.

Mary Boykoff - I had a meeting with the 2 presenters, and I think of it well. And they're acting together for their presentation and trying to combine it into one.

Tara Maharjan/ Christie Lutz - The big news at Rutgers is that we moved almost 30,000 collections to commercial storage. They do have to come back and move our museum objects and our artwork. But for the most part we're done so once the dust settles on that a little bit more.

We'll be able to you know we are opening a bit more to researchers, which means we can right now only accommodate 2 researchers at a time while working out of the case room.

So, we are working to try to get a larger space, to start accommodating more people.

We have a series at Rutgers on exploring special collections, and it's been a while since we've done one, but we take turns kind of talking about different collections and initiatives.

So, I'm doing a talk on April 28th at 4pm on New Jersey postcards in our New Jersey postcard collections and special collections. It's going to be a zoom event.

Tara Maharjan – MARAC has a call out for nominations for Innovative Archives Award (<https://www.marac.info/new-jersey-caucus-awards>). So, if anyone is interested in submitting an application to the for the Innovative Archives Award, you can be in touch with me, and I can send you the nomination form.

MARAC is also hosting an oral history presentation. It'll be presented by Melissa Ziobro at Monmouth University. She will be doing a one-hour kind of crash course on how to conduct oral histories. It will be on April 7th at 2 p.m. The registration link for the oral histories is right here: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvce-orzkiGtMQ4HgLIQgMPNfi3q4Vjyq0>

On May 5th at 4 p.m., New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance - NJSAA and Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives is hosting Peter Wosh, who discusses his new book, "Murder on the Mountain." (<https://www.facebook.com/events/3138226899785195>)

Robert Stewart - I joined Gary in retirement in December. I'm working still with Asbury Park Historical Society and Asbury Park Museum Association which is a group that's trying to get a museum in Asbury Park.

Jacqueline Silver-Morillo – New reading room for the archives; we are having researchers come in person again; the room can fit up to 2-3 people at a time; research hours are Wednesdays 10-12 and 2-4.

Elsalyn Palmisano - Oh, okay, no, I don't have anything to report other than I just wanted to mention that archives in history committee that Fred was mentioning. They'll be composed of 8 members in addition to the committee chair. The NJLA immediate past president and a delegate from the history and preservation section.

Laura Poll - No updates

Juber Ayala - No updates

Nancy Madacsi - Yes, the Van Kirk Museum, we had a not bad year last year and had 600 school kids visit the museum. We're right next door to a middle school, and they walked over, and we were able to show off the museum.

We are going to be reopening on April 24th, and we have an exhibit called the best of Van Kirk. We contracted with a magician and had a magic show for children, and we had 54 people attend.

On May 12th, we have Dr. Paul Israel coming to the Sparta Historical Society to talk about Thomas Edison.

Sara Weissman - Census 1950, urban not bad, rural trick; ED maps useful for rural finds.

Beth Zak-Cohen - Newark events:

https://npl.org/event/the-rise-and-fall-of-newarks-beer-industry-an-environmental-history/?instance_id=3894738

and

https://npl.org/event/book-launch-industrial-palimpsest-the-city-of-newark-nj/?instance_id=3894739

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.