

History & Preservation Section
New Jersey Library Association
Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2016

Location: Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St.

Meeting called to order at 9:31 am

Members present: Section president Carolyn Dorsey, Section vice president Thomas Ankner, and members Bruce Bardarik, Matthew Callahan, Colleen Goode, Danny Klein, Nancy Madacsi, Kathleen Melgar, Jessica Myers, Laura Poll, and Gary Saretzky.

Minutes approved for the two most recent section meetings of March 14 and May 17, 2016.

Introductions and announcements:

- Vice president Ankner, of the Newark Public Library, discussed three current exhibits on view at the library, including a 12' x 12' scale model of the city of Newark, which will be on display at NPL's Central Library until September.
- Member Myers mentioned that the local history collection at the Bloomfield Public Library is currently being moved.
- Member Madacsi spoke about recent activities at the Sussex County Historical Society and the Sparta Historical Society.
- Member Poll reported that the next speaker in the Trenton Free Public Library's lecture series will appear August 20. Poll is hoping for further lectures in October and December.
- Members Callahan and Melgar, of the Asbury Park Public Library, reported on a planned exhibit dealing with the famous 1916 shark attacks along the Jersey Shore, which will include postcards and an author talk.
- Member Goode, of the Ocean County Library, announced that her library is "flush with volunteers." She is particularly excited about work on a database of local history cookbooks, as well as a project to institute quality control on digitized newspapers in Ocean County Library's collection.
- Member Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist, spoke about an upcoming exhibit dealing with transportation in Monmouth County, which will include seminars on railroads and airlines in October. He also announced that there are still tables available for Archives and History Day, October 8. Archives and History Day marks the end of the annual Archives Week. Saretzky also spoke about a new film about a Civil War encampment at Fort Monmouth. Finally, he announced that, after 23 years, he will no longer be the coordinator of the Rutgers history internship program.
- Member Klein announced that the Central building of the Jersey City Free Public Library is scheduled to reopen September 6. The renovated building will feature a new elevator, a chair lift to make the building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, compact shelving in the New Jersey room, and other features.

Vice President's Report: Vice president Ankner discussed ideas for H&P's programs for next year's NJLA conference. He took suggestions for programs about digitized historic newspapers, handling donated materials, working with patrons doing basic genealogy research, and starting a digitization project.

Professional Development Committee: President Dorsey discussed results of a recent survey done by this committee. Chair Paul Martinez was absent. Of 34 responses, 64 percent were interested in professional development programs dealing with digital collections, making it the most popular subject area. Other areas of interest were archival finding aids, project management for archives, exhibits, creating a local history collection, and "Archives 101." President Dorsey encouraged members to contact chairman Martinez with ideas. There was also discussion about what form the professional development sessions would take: formal presentations with a speaker, informal discussions, or some mix of the two.

Nominations, Awards, Constitution and By-laws committees: reports of these committees were postponed.

Old Business:

- **NJLA:** President Dorsey reported that this year's NJLA conference was a success, with good participation at H&P programs.
- **NJLA 125:** Member Bardarik asked about NJLA's celebration of its 125th anniversary, which he said has "petered out." President Dorsey promised to look into any plans being made.

New Business:

President Dorsey announced plans for a new NJLA requirement: a program organized by the H&P section, for which we would charge a fee of \$20 for NJLA members. NJLA must receive at least \$250 from the program.

President Dorsey's idea is a program on book repair, to take place at the Plainfield Library on November 9. Member Saretzky asked about the honorarium for the speaker, a staffer at the Monmouth County Library. Member Goode wanted to know how extensive the program would be, and expressed concerns that members might not want to pay for a program about book repair so soon after a similar program at the NJLA conference. Member Myers thought the program should be described with the more general term "preservation" to attract more people.

Reference section forum: The Reference section is asking for people to staff tables for a meeting they will hold at the Monmouth County Library on October 24. Member Saretzky offered to staff a table for the H&P section.

Next meetings: We have a meeting scheduled for October 5 at the Monmouth County Library. President Dorsey has asked to have another meeting before then. Member Madacsi has offered to host a meeting at either the Sussex County Historical Society or the Sparta Historical Society. Members Callahan and Melgar offered the Asbury Park Library as the site of the next meeting. No agreement was reached on a date or location for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:29 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Thomas Ankner.