

The Chronicle



The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

Summer 2016

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2015-2016 H&P Section Executive Board

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To submit articles, news or calendar events to *The Chronicle*, email Sarah Hull, newsletter editor, at sarah.hull@plfdpl.info.

Feel free to send images to accompany the text.

The submission deadline for the Summer issue is July 1, 2016.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Debra Schiff, Section President

On March 15, 2016, I gave the History & Preservation Section Annual Report to the NJLA Executive Board. It was a good opportunity to talk about the meetings and workshops we've had, improvements we've made to the Bylaws, and intentions for the coming year. Importantly, it was an occasion to remind NJLA's leadership that we are a resource for them and all members interested in learning more about preservation and local history collections in NJ institutions.

The feedback I received was overwhelmingly positive. Board members were impressed with what we accomplished in the last year. They were enthusiastic about the number of sessions we are offering at this year's conference, and that our sessions were co-sponsored by so many other Sections. They also were very pleased about our intention to raise awareness of ourselves as ready resources for NJLA members, especially through continuing education efforts.

Speaking of education, the half-day Archival Basics for Librarians workshop at Rutgers on March 22 was very well attended, thanks to NJLA leadership spreading the word. I've received rave reviews from attendees, which makes me think we should offer this free workshop on an annual basis.

Finally, I would like to recognize all of the hard work of the H&P leadership and committee members, as well as our newsletter editor. I'm grateful to have served with all of you, and I look forward to continuing our work as the new slate of officers take their places in July. See you at NJLA in Atlantic City!

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PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY HIP HOP ARCHIVE

Submitted by Sarah Hull, Head of Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections

The Plainfield Public Library is pleased to announce the addition of a new collection to our local history archive. Long-time resident Kurtiss Jackson will make a formal donation of his 25-year archive of Hip Hop related prints, video, audio, memorabilia and ephemera on Saturday, May 21, 2016. The exhibition of items from the collection will begin in April and include special presentations and topical workshops (details to be announced):

- What is Hip Hop?
- How my small town changed Hip Hop
- How the musical *Hamilton* exemplifies Hip Hop Edutainment
- Documenting culture through photographs, words, video, and graphics
- Impact of the *Cypher* on Hip Hop

The Plainfield Public Library archive, which preserves thousands of rare documents and photographs, has become the most extensive history collection in Union County. As the home of many unique collections from diverse local backgrounds, the Plainfield Public Library, through its new Hip Hop Archive, will preserve artifacts and educate visitors about the impact of this phenomenal American sub-culture.

Kurtiss Jackson, aka Kurt Nice, is a behind-the-scenes pioneer in the Hip Hop genre, creating the

first nationally-distributed video mix tape series, *Shades of Hip Hop*, in the late 1990s. After touring the U.S. with the “Stop the Violence Movement” and the “Temple of Hip Hop” as KRS-ONE’s National Marketing Director (2009), Kurt Nice has been a constant commentator on conscious Hip Hop and

its relevance to the new rap music of today through radio and cable appearances. Kurt is the author of two books on Hip Hop, and publisher of a digital magazine series *Hip Hop Lives*. He has produced numerous radio programs as well as live events and is currently a small business owner and Senior Graphic Designer for the *Essex Times* Newspaper.

The Hip Hop exhibition will be on display through the end of July and made available thereafter for research by students, journalists, collectors, and music historians. Make

plans to join us on May 21 or contact us for information about workshops and private tours of the Hip Hop exhibition.

[Image: Kurtiss Jackson with some favorite items in his personal collection of Hip Hop memorabilia. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jackson.]

For more information contact Plainfield Public Library at 908-757-1111 x. 136.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH JERSEY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER

Submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian

The North Jersey History & Genealogy Center announces the following.

Gardens and Grounds by Three North Jersey Landscape Designers

This new exhibit by the library's North Jersey History & Genealogy Center shows highlights from the Center's collections of landscape designs by Brinley & Holbrook, Ethelbert Furlong, and Joan Shapiro Greentree. The exhibit will be on display in the F.M. Kirby Gallery, located on the library's second floor from April 4 through July 3, 2016.

John Brinley, of Brinley & Holbrook, redesigned the Morristown Green in 1909. He began working as a landscape designer in 1885 and died in 1946. He designed the grounds of Florham (the Vanderbilt Mansion now home to Fairleigh Dickinson University) and other estates in northern New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. He worked with Frederick Law Olmsted on grounds for bigger companies and also designed landscapes for parks, schools, hospitals, prisons, asylums, churches, golf clubs, playgrounds, cemeteries, offices and government buildings throughout the Garden State.

Examples of works are shown by Ethelbert Furlong (1894-1993), who was influenced by Japanese design, and whose work includes a rooftop garden for the Metropolitan Museum, and West Orange's

Pleasantdale Chateau. Furlong also won an award from Lady Bird Johnson for the design of Capital Car grounds (in Maryland).

Joan Shapiro Greentree (1929-2012) was a Boonton resident for about 25 years and the designer of New Jersey's first recycling center in the 1960s.

The Masterful Gardens of Ethelbert Furlong – presented by Joan Furlong

This upcoming lecture about Ethelbert Ely Furlong (1894-1993) is scheduled for May 10, 2016 at 7 pm. Furlong was a landscape architect in practice in northern New Jersey from 1920 until 1983. Joan Furlong, licensed landscape architect and granddaughter of E.E. Furlong, is an Associate with MKW + Associates in Rutherford, NJ. She holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University and is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Several of Furlong's gardens are featured in the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens.

The main body of his work is archived in the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center, at the Morristown & Morris Township Library.

For more information, visit the Library website at: <http://www.jfpl.org/index.cfm>

PRESERVATION DAY AT MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY

Submitted by Gary Saretzky, County Archivist

On Wednesday, April 27, County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon and County Archivist Gary Saretzky invite the public to the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan for a free lecture on preservation techniques for family photos. Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit the Archives, have a few personal documents or photos professionally digitized, and go for a tour.

The program is part of the American Library Association's annual Preservation Week. The program will be held at the Monmouth County Library and the Monmouth County Archives (located in the lower level of the building), 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan. No pre-registration is required.

At 10 am, Monmouth County Archivist Gary Saretzky will give a presentation on "Preserving Family Photographs." Then, from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm, the public is invited to visit the Archives

and have up to three documents or photos scanned and saved to a CD to take home at no charge. Staff will also be on hand to answer questions on how to use the Archives to research family history. A tour will be conducted at 2 pm.

"We want to help the public preserve their treasured family memories and also make the community more aware of the preservation work conducted by the Archives," said Saretzky. "Family history in written documents and photos should last a lifetime and be passed on to future generations."

Preservation Week is sponsored by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). It is designed to raise awareness of the role libraries and other cultural institutions can play in providing ongoing preservation information.

For more information, call 732-308-3771 x. 5.

PRESERVATION WEEK

Sunday, April 24 kicks off the 6th annual Preservation Week, a national awareness campaign developed by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS). Established in 2010, Preservation Week promotes the importance and understanding of protecting and caring for personal and community cultural heritage collections, including books, documents, photographs, textiles, artwork, furniture and any other collectible items. For more information, go to : <http://www.ala.org/alcts/preservationweek> .

NEWS FROM NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Tom Ankner, Librarian

The last few months have been busy at the Newark Public Library. On January 19, NPL launched a year-long series of events geared toward the city's 350th anniversary. That night was the opening of the library's anniversary exhibit, *Newark at 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal*, featuring images from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center at NPL. The exhibit, curated by librarian Thomas Ankner, will be up through the end of the year.

Also launched on January 19 was the program *Newark Lifetimes: Recollections and Reflections*, a monthly series of conversations with prominent Newarkers. The program in April features writers Benilde Little and Richard Wesley.

The opening of the library's Black History Month exhibit took place on February 4. *We Found Our Way: Newark Portraits from the Great Migration* is built around recordings from the Krueger-Scott African American Oral History Collection, conducted

in Newark during the 1990s. In addition to three listening stations, the exhibit features photos, art, and video exploring the effect of the Great

Migration on Newark. The exhibit, curated by Samantha Boardman of Rutgers University--Newark, runs through April 9th.

In February, the Newark Public Library launched a Digital Working Group, geared toward creating a plan to digitize some of the library's unique and valuable collections. We are working with Rutgers professor Mary Rizzo, associate director of Public and Digital Humanities Initiatives, who plans to use students in Rutgers' new public history graduate program to assist the library with their digitization efforts.

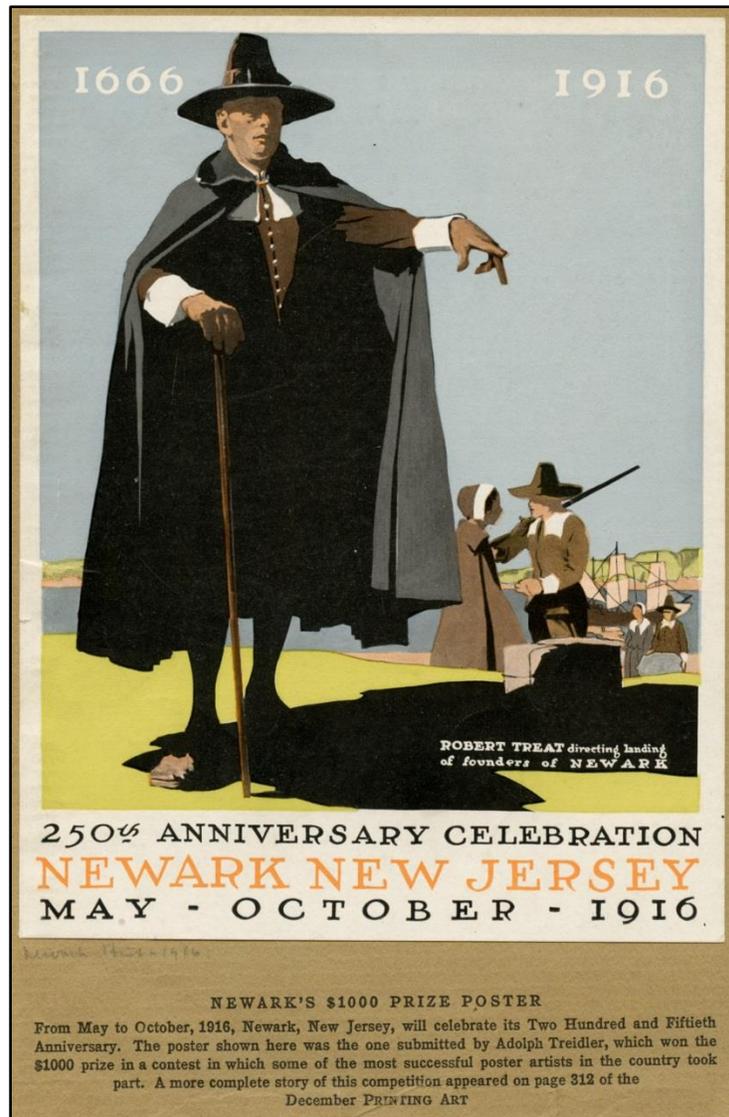


Image: Newark celebrated its 250th anniversary in 1916. This poster was the winning entry in a \$1,000 contest to mark the anniversary. Image courtesy of Newark Public Library.

MARAC NEW JERSEY INNOVATIVE ARCHIVES AWARD 2016

Submitted by Laura M. Poll, New Jersey Caucus Chair

The New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference sponsors an annual award that recognizes outstanding service to the field. The Innovative Archives Award is given to an organization that has provided exemplary leadership or service to the archival community and residents of the state. It may also honor a local, county, or regional organization, either for long-term leadership or service, or for outstanding effort demonstrated in a given year. Nominees may have developed innovative educational or outreach models utilizing archival sources, provided leadership during a time of emergency or crisis,

demonstrated new thinking in finding a solution to an issue or problem, or exhibited creativity in increasing awareness of local history resources among New Jersey residents and visitors. If you know of an innovative library or collection, or you think you are one (self-nominations are welcome), please submit a nomination by April 15. Criteria and application are available online at:

http://www.marac.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=84

The Ocean Township Historical Museum was the 2015 recipient and was presented their award at Archives & History Day last October.

SAVE THE DATES!

The **Monmouth County Archives** is planning its annual Archives and History Day event on **October 8, 2016**. The theme this year is the history of transportation in Monmouth County; an exhibit on this topic is being prepared. Invitations will be sent in April to organizations that wish to reserve one of the 62 exhibit tables available.

The **Plainfield Public Library** is planning its first Tri-County History Fair on **October 22, 2016**. Union, Somerset, and Middlesex County archives, libraries, and history-related organizations are encouraged to participate. Invitations will be sent in May to reserve one of the limited tables to be set up around the fountain on the library's lower level.

BOOKS ARE THE THING

This is a column of books about books, or people who love books, or....

Joe Da Rold, reviewer

Although the Scandinavian mystery writers seem to be the darlings of American reviewers lately, other foreign authors, such as German novelist Hermann Koch and a slew of Asian writers, have been far more impressive. Both of the books this month feature men in Re-Education camps writing notebooks.

THE FOUR BOOKS by Yan Lianke, 2015.

Lianke depicts the harsh life inside a Chinese Re-Education camp, where books are banned yet important in many ways. In this informant environment, the Author is required to keep a notebook documenting everyone's behavior. Secretly, he writes his own book about the realities of camp life under the supervision of the "Child," a strange prepubescent who becomes attracted to Christianity and ends up crucifying himself. Lianke continues to live in China where, amazingly, he has not been silenced or imprisoned for publishing his observations on Chinese society. This stylized modern-day fable is slow-going, but it will keep drawing you back into the story.

THE SYMPATHIZER by Viet Thanh Nguyen, 2015.

Nguyen also gives us a lead character writing from a Re-Education Camp, but instead of describing the conditions inside the camp, he takes us on a roller-coaster story of how he got there. Starting with a riveting description of the Fall of Saigon, he grippingly reveals how the lives of the Repats are shattered in America. Although he revels in American culture, his secret allegiance is to the Viet Cong. Nguyen's writing is impressive. His metaphors are fresh and telling; he describes gossip as being "*tuned in to the humming, crackling AM channel of hearsay.*" The final chapter explodes as one realizes this is not just about Vietnam and its survivors. Nguyen has written a profound novel of nations at war and individuals at war with themselves. Not an easy book to read, but an impressive work that has been on just about every 10 Best list of 2015.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Member Updates from Across New Jersey

Elizabeth Public Library – submitted by Aimee Fernandez-Puente, Library Associate

Elizabeth Public Library announces the following events:

19th Century New Jersey Photographers: Union County

Thursday, April 14 at 12 pm in the 4th Floor Auditorium
Main Branch, 11 S. Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Of the approximately 3,000 different photographers who were active in New Jersey before 1900, a substantial number worked in Union County. In a slide lecture, Gary D. Saretzky will profile these pioneers, especially in Elizabeth, Rahway, and Plainfield, and discuss them within the larger context of New Jersey photography in the nineteenth-century. Gary D. Saretzky, archivist and photographer, has worked as an archivist for the Monmouth County Archives since 1994. Under the auspices of the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, he lectures around the state on topics related to the history of photography. Saretzky has published more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics. This program is funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities

For more information, contact Aimee Fernandez-Puente, Library Associate, Local History and Information Services at 908-354-6060 x. 7152 or e-mail afernandez@elizpl.org.

This program is free and open to the public. Feel free to bring your lunch. Coffee, tea, and desserts will be provided.

In Memoriam: Tangible Evidence of a Heartbroken Populace

April 13 to 26, 2016 in the 3rd Floor Senior Space (just outside the Local History Room entrance)
Main Branch, 11 S. Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

As a culture we tend to celebrate Lincoln's birthday with holidays and sale shopping, but in 1865 it was quite the reverse. Lincoln's murder on April 14 of that year shocked and grieved the nation, and his cortege train stopped in every major American city following his inaugural route. It is impossible to describe the outpouring of shock and grief displayed by the citizens of the United States at that time. "In Memoriam: Tangible Evidence of a Heartbroken Populace" is a brief exhibit of memorial ribbons worn by the mourners, and seeks to remind us of the esteem in which he was held. For more information, contact the Local History Room at 908-354-6060 x. 7152/ x. 7220

Monmouth County Archives – submitted by Gary Saretzky, Archivist

The Monmouth County Archives is planning its annual Archives and History Day event on October 8, 2016. The theme this year is the history of transportation in Monmouth County; an exhibit on this topic is being prepared. Invitations will be sent in April to organizations that wish to reserve one of the 62 exhibit tables available.

Archivist Gary Saretzky's article on New Jersey's first woman photographer, Charlotte Prosch, appeared in the March 2016 issue of *Garden State Legacy*, available online at:

http://gardenstatelegacy.com/GSL_31_Mar_16.html

Morristown & Morris Township Public Library – submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian

Protecting Natural and Historic Places

This is a lecture series presented by The Morristown & Morris Township Library, and the Morris County Trust for Historic Preservation. The natural and built environments together support each other, and every aspect of our lives. That's why we preserve historic resources and protect natural spaces. This program series, running from April through October, features top-notch speakers in both fields, offering our community a new understanding of these local riches. For more information, visit the website at: http://www.ifpl.org/polNews.cfm?doctype_code=News&doc_id=39879

Recent donation:

A collection of photographs of the Peapack/Gladstone area, ca. 1900-1945



For more information please contact the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center at 973-538-3473 or njhgc@jpfl.org or visit us in the lower level of the library.

Newark History Society – submitted by Warren Grover

The Newark History Society's next program in our series marking Newark's 350th anniversary, *Puritans, Protestors, and Patriots: Newark in the Colonial Period*, will take place in NJPAC's Chase Room on Monday, April 18 at 6 pm.

Even after 350 years, fully one-third of Newark's long history took place in the 117 years from the founding in 1666 to the surrender of the British in 1783 at the end of the American Revolution. Timothy Crist will discuss key themes related to Newark's Puritan founders, the town builders and land protestors who followed them, and the patriots and loyalists who fought and suffered in the American Revolution. Educated at Yale and Cambridge University, Dr. Crist is a co-founder and president of the Newark History Society.

This program is open to the public at no charge, and light refreshments will be available.

Please RSVP by April 14 via email NewarkHistorySociety@verizon.net or by calling 973-376-8273.

Plainfield Public Library – submitted by Sarah Hull, Head of Local History

On Thursday, May 5 from 6 to 8 pm, the library will offer the first in a series of workshops and lectures as part of the Hip Hop Archive Exhibition. The lecture, *How Hamilton Exemplifies Hip Hop Edutainment*, will discuss the impact of Hip Hop (Kulture) techniques used in the critically-acclaimed Broadway musical, *Hamilton*, by writer/Hiphoppa Lin-Manuel Miranda. It is free and open to the public.

The Local History Department is pleased to announce its first *Tri-County History Fair* scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2016. Participant tables will be located around the fountain on the library's lower level. The two guest speakers for the day are Joe Grabas, who will talk about property owners in Union, Somerset, and Middlesex Counties; and Richard Veit, who will discuss cemeteries and grave markers in the tri-county area. More details to follow.

Somerset County Library System – submitted by Ken Kaufman, New Jersey Librarian

Land of Refuge? Land of Opportunity? How the History of Latin American Migration Can Help Us Understand Current Debates Over Refugees and Immigrants.

Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 11 am to 1 pm at Warren Township Library

How do we make sense of our current debates over refugee and immigration policy? How can the history of Latin American migration to the United States help us understand these contemporary debates? Please join us for a lecture and discussion exploring the migration history of the twentieth century Americas which will challenge participants to reexamine commonly-held assumptions about American and Latin American history.

Somerset County Library System (continued)

Dr. Carl Lindskoog teaches courses in Latin American, African American, and United States history at Raritan Valley Community College. A specialist in immigration, race, and ethnicity in the United States and Latin America, he is completing a book entitled *Haitian Refugees and the Rebirth of Immigrant Detention in the United States, 1973 to 2000*.

History of the Jersey Shore

Thursday, June 9, 2016, 7 to 8:30 pm at Hillsborough Library

Join author and photographer Kevin Woyce for a tour of New Jersey's coastal history – from pirates, shipwrecks, and lighthouses, to grand hotels, abandoned forts, and today's most popular boardwalks.

A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 11 am to 1 pm at Warren Township Library

During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. They endured terrible Texas weather, snakes, spiders and scorpions, as well as the hostility of some male instructors. Graduating WASPs piloted every kind of military aircraft, tested new and overhauled airplanes, delivered more than 12,000 planes, and flew over 60,000,000 miles. Thirty-eight of them died serving their country. Carol Simon Levin tells the story of the amazing WASPs through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP and became the first American woman to fly a jet airplane!

Lighthouses of New Jersey

Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 7 to 8 pm at Hillsborough Library

The New Jersey Lighthouse Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering appreciation of the history of our lighthouses and to support their restoration and preservation. Join us for an interesting look into the lighthouses of New Jersey, the Delaware Bay and the New York Harbor region.

Meet Emily Roebling: Bridge Builder in Petticoats

Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 3 to 4 pm at Bridgewater Library

Many books and films have featured the Brooklyn Bridge. Built between 1869 and 1883, without modern machines or even electric light, it was one of the most amazing technological achievements of its time. Yet few people know that a woman helped supervise much of its construction. After her husband was bedridden, Emily Roebling became his liaison to the project – eventually communicating with the engineers and suppliers so well that it was rumored that she had become the Chief Engineer herself! At her death, she was called “the most famous woman in New Jersey.”

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

April 2016 – Preservation Week Begins on April 24

Elizabeth Public Library

April 14 – 12 pm / *19th Century New Jersey Photographers: Union County*

Monmouth County Library

April 27 / Preservation Day

MARAC NJ

April 15 / Innovative Archive Award nominations due

Newark History Society at NJPAC

April 18 – 6 pm / *Puritans, Protestors, and Patriots: Newark in the Colonial Period*

Plainfield Public Library

April 14 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting

May 2016 – NJLA Annual Conference in Atlantic City on May 16, 17, and 18

Plainfield Public Library

May 5 – 6 to 8 pm / *How Hamilton Exemplifies Hip Hop Edutainment*

May 12 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting

May 21 – 10 am to 4 pm / *Plainfield Hip Hop Archive Exhibition* grand opening

Warren Township Library (SCLS)

May 4 – 11 am to 1 pm / *Land of Refuge? Land of Opportunity? How the history of Latin American migration can help us understand current debates over refugees and immigrants.*

June 2016

Hillsborough Library (SCLS)

June 9 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *History of the Jersey Shore*

June 22 – 7 to 8 pm / *Lighthouses of New Jersey*

Plainfield Public Library

June 9 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting

Warren Township Library (SCLS)

June 15 – 11 am to 1 pm / *A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII*