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

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2017-2018 H&P Section Executive Board

Thomas Ankner, President Nancy Madacsi, Vice President Ken Kaufman, Secretary Carolyn Dorsey, Past President **Members-at-Large:** Annamarie Klose Hrubes Richetta Wilson Lobban Jessica Myers Gary D. Saretzky **Ex Officio:**

Laura Poll, MARAC NJ Caucus

Michele Stricker, State Library Liaison

To submit articles, news or calendar events to *The Chronicle*, email Colleen Goode, newsletter editor, at <u>cgoode@theoceancountylibrary.org</u> If possible, please send images to accompany the text.

The submission deadline for the Summer issue is June 26, 2018.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Tom Ankner, Section President

As we enter the final quarter of the 2017-18 NJLA term, we have much to look forward to: the annual conference, two continuing education programs, and the new section officers taking over in July for the 2018-19 term.

The annual NJLA conference is scheduled for May 30-June 1 in Atlantic City. The History & Preservation section has two conference programs planned for the event. We are also sponsors of another program and a poster session.

Our authors' program, *Raise Your Voices*, will feature award-winning writers Dorothy Cobble and Kathryn Watterson discussing their books at 11:30 am on Thursday, May 31. *Digitization on a Dime*, with speakers Annamarie Klose Hrubes and Isaiah Beard, will be held on Friday, June 1 at 11:30 am.

H&P is a co-sponsor of *We Go Way Back: Libraries & Community Web Archiving*, scheduled for June 1 at 3:40 pm.

The poster session, proposed by Paul Martinez of Montclair State University, is *The Day our External Hard Drive Went "Boom!" An Introduction to Digital Preservation*.

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The following day will bring <u>Yesterday's News for Today's Technology: Exploring the New Jersey Digital</u> <u>Newspaper Project</u>. Deborah Mercer of the State Library and Caryn Radick of Rutgers University will discuss efforts to add 100,000 pages of historic New Jersey newspapers to the Library of Congress' *Chronicling America* website. The program is scheduled for the State Library in Trenton at 10 am on April 18.

Thank you to everyone who voted last month in the election for candidates of the History & Preservation section. The new officers, taking over July 1, will be:

- * President: Thomas Ankner, Newark Public Library
- * Vice President: Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library
- * Past President: Nancy Madacsi, Sparta Historical Society and Sussex County Historical Society
- * Secretary: Kenneth Kaufman, Somerset County Library System
- * Member-at-Large: Sarah Kiefer, Ridgewood Public Library
- * Member-at-Large: Richetta Wilson Lobban, East Orange Public Library
- * Member-at-Large: Jessica Myers, Bloomfield Historical Society
- * Member-at-Large: Gary Saretzky, Monmouth County Archives

Thanks to all who volunteered to serve, both in the current and coming term. I'm looking forward to serving with the new officers.

See everybody later in the spring, at NJLA!

NEXT MEETING OF THE NJLA H&P SECTION

The next meeting of the History & Preservation section will be held on Friday, June 1, during the lunch hour at the NJLA Conference at Harrah's in Atlantic City.

NJLA CONFERENCE, ATLANTIC CITY: SNEAK PREVIEW OF HISTORY & PRESERVATION SECTION PROGRAMS

Raise Your Voices

By Jessica Myers, Bloomfield Historical Society

Award-winning authors Dorothy Cobble and Kathryn Watterson will speak about their newest books on Thursday, May 31 at 11:30 am.

Rutgers University Professor Dorothy Sue Cobble, co-author of *Feminism Unfinished: A Short, Surprising History of American Women's Movements*, will examine perceptions of women's activism in the twentieth century, discussing its rich inclusive story of the fight for women's rights.



Dorothy Sue Cobble

Kathryn Watterson

Kathryn Watterson will present her new book *I Hear My People Singing: Voices of African American Princeton,* which features the untold stories of 55 residents whose steady voices speak to the racial divide in school, in church, in work, and behind the town's ivy walls. Watterson pulls together these oral histories revealing the reality of racism...finally challenged. Digitization on a Dime By Annamarie Klose Hrubes

Isaiah Beard, Digital Data Curator, Rutgers University, and Annamarie Klose Hrubes, Digital Initiatives Librarian, William Paterson University, will present *Digitization on a Dime* on Friday, June 1, at 11:30 am.

DIGITIZATION IS OFTEN SEEN AS AN EXPENSIVE PROSPECT FOR INSTITUTIONS WHO WANT TO SHARE THEIR ARCHIVAL AND HISTORIC MATERIALS ONLINE WITH THE PUBLIC, BUT THIS DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE CASE.

This session's speakers will discuss low-budget strategies to handle digitization while ensuring quality. The session includes specific examples with tips and tricks on when to splurge and when to pinch your pennies.

RUTGERS DIGITIZES ROMAN COIN COLLECTION, MAKING IT ACCESSIBLE TO THE WORLD:

Knowledge, technology, patience open new knowledge of ancient Roman life

By Ken Branson (reprinted with permission)

The Rutgers University Libraries have digitized an invaluable collection of 1,250 coins from the ancient Roman Republic.

Through a collaboration of classical scholarship and super high-resolution photography, the goal was to make multi-angle views of these coins – some of copper, some of bronze, silver or gold, all bearing fascinating engravings – available for study by scholars and students while protecting the originals.

Anyone with an Internet connection can now zoom and pan all 1,250 digitized coins free of charge, via the Coins portal. Visitors to the Alexander Library at Rutgers University–New Brunswick can view several of the actual coins, along with reproductions of the new digital images, at an exhibit opening March 23 in the Scholarly Communication Center.



One of the 1,250 Roman republican coins digitized from the Badian Collection. <u>High Res</u> Nick Romanenko, Rutgers University

"These coins, housed at the Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives, are an invaluable resource for anyone studying Roman political and cultural history," said T. Corey Brennan, a professor of classics at the School of Arts and Sciences who uses the coins in his courses. "You can see the monetary system being constructed, with lots of experiments and dead ends along the way. We're now making them available to anyone with a computer and an internet connection. It's a true gift of knowledge to the world."

The Badian Collection of Coins of the Roman Republic is named for Ernst Badian, the late Harvard University professor who donated the vast collection to Rutgers thanks to his connection to Brennan, who was his student.

"The Libraries, the Classics Department and the School of Communication and Information all collaborated to make this happen," said Ronald Jantz of the Shared User Services unit of the Rutgers University Libraries, who oversaw the digitization project along with Brennan.

The bulk of the work was done by Rick Hale, a classics doctoral student in the School of Graduate



Rick Hale, who has spent the past several years digitizing the Badian Collection of Coins of the Roman Republic, examines one of his coins. <u>High Res</u> Nick Romanenko, Rutgers University

Studies, four library school students from SC&I, and several part-time library employees.

The digitization, description of the coins, and upload to Rutgers Institutional Repository (RUcore) spanned about four years and required patience, skill, knowledge of ancient coins, advanced technology and improvisation.

Each coin had to be photographed several times to give online users the ability to view it from several angles, including slanted visuals to show the depth of the impressions. Jantz, Hale and their teammates wrote descriptions for each coin that allow users to search by type of metal, denomination, the person depicted on the coin and more.

"At first, showing multiple angles for each coin meant we had to manipulate them manually — shoot straight on, move the coin a few degrees, shoot that image, and so on," Hale said.

Although the multiple-angle approach did have some advantages, the Coins team switched to taking images of the obverse and reverse of each coin in order to expedite the imaging process. Late in the project, Aaron Hershkowitz, also a classics doctoral student, joined the team and brought with him knowledge of a new technology "reflectance transformation imaging," or RTI, with which Hale and Hershkowitz began to experiment toward the end of the project. In RTI, the coin is placed inside an LED-studded dome, making it possible to shoot multiple views by manipulating the lights, not the coin. The RTI technology holds great promise for continuing to improve the coin imaging process.



Rick Hale, in the foreground, and Aaron Hershkowitz, with the tools of their trade. <u>High Res</u> Nick Romanenko, Rutgers University

Each coin in the Badian collection tells a story, some quite intriguing. After Julius Caesar's assassination, a coin was minted showing the heads of Mark Antony and Octavian – who later became Augustus Caesar – on the same coin, thus capturing a brief moment when the two were allies. Antony and the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra subsequently lost an infamous civil war fought against Octavian and committed suicide.

NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY RELEASES ACTIVITY BOOK Submitted by Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library

The Newark Public Library (NPL) is excited to announce the release of the *My Newark Story* Activity Book! The activity book is packed with important facets of Newark's history and provides an abundance of activities focused on reaching as many Newark residents as possible. Geared towards third to eighth graders, each section includes a historical overview of a particular topic,

followed by one or two activities, such as reflective questions, a crossword puzzle, quizzes, and coloring activities.

In August of 2016, the Newark Public Library received a generous twoyear grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The grant providing funding to digitize a portion of NPL's historical materials that document the Great Migration and Latino Immigration experience into Newark, NJ and to help introduce students, parents, and educators to

 My Newark Story

 Original State

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schools and organizations throughout the city, lesson plans have been created, three traveling exhibits were produced, and various educational and fun activities have been offered onsite and at locations throughout Newark. Yet, the Library maintained that even more could be done to benefit the city's youngest residents, which was the catalyst for the *My Newark Story* Activity Book.

> Not only is the activity book educational from a historical perspective, but it also brings attention to the city's rich cultural heritage by highlighting topics such as the Newark Eagles (Newark's Negro league from 1936-1948), the election of Ken Gibson (Newark's first African American Mayor), the Latino migration into Newark, and the Puerto Rican Rebellion of 1974. Ideally, NPL intends to help promote an appreciation of Newark's history and culture, and to encourage dialogue between children and their family members about their own

the rich historical materials in the Library's collection. The goal of the project, which NPL aptly named *My Newark Story*, is to foster literacy and critical thinking skills through the lens of local history, with an emphasis on the ways Newark has been shaped by immigration.

As part of this initiative, the Library has organized **Community History Days** at several branches, an educational outreach consultant has been visiting Newark stories and experiences.

The *My Newark Story* program has been fortunate to receive significant support from schools, nonprofits, and other community organizations, but the program would not be possible without the participation of Newarkers themselves. One of the objectives of our program has to been to create opportunities for residents to tell their own stories. NPL encourages participants to share their own firsthand knowledge of Newark's history at each of our events. For instance, families have contributed their photographs at *My Newark Story* events to our digital community archive and NPL continues to explore new ways to encourage participation in the program. Hopefully, with the addition of the *My Newark Story* Activity Book, children will be inspired to inquire about their parents' and grandparents' experiences in Newark, which not only helps to promote a sense of family/cultural pride but also illustrates the commonalities that residents share in their Newark experiences.

The *My Newark Story* Activity Book is available at the Main Library and at the Newark Public Library's

seven branch locations located throughout the city. Copies are currently being distributed to schools and youth organizations throughout Newark. Any school or organization can request copies by contacting Karl Schwartz at **kschwartz@npl.org**.

To learn more about *My Newark Story*, please visit: <u>https://npl.org/mynewarkstory</u>.

Please join us for **Community History Day**, which will be held at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street, on Saturday, May 19th. There will be a diverse agenda of activities for children, lectures, performances, free portraits, and much more – fun for the whole family so don't miss it!!

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS ARCHIVISTS TO THE RESCUE! PROJECT UPDATE: PILOT PORTION IN NEW JERSEY

Submitted by Deb Schiff, Archivist, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of SAA Lone Arrangers Section

Background

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) "Archivists to the Rescue!" project strives to bring local, verylow- and no-cost, basic archival training workshops to individuals with little or no archival background or skills who cannot afford typical professional development courses and/or the transportation costs required to travel outside of their areas for similar workshops. With these hands-on, in-person workshops, we aim to help preserve and make accessible the collective knowledge and archival record of the participating communities and promote a more inclusive profession.

With the guidance of an Advisory Board outfitted with SAA Fellows and one particularly noteworthy librarian, volunteer members of the SAA Lone Arrangers; Reference, Access and Outreach; and Issues and Advocacy Sections are developing a pilot program comprising workshops covering the essentials of preservation, archival processing, arrangement, description, digital archives (handling born-digital materials and digitizing materials), and identifying and caring for photographs. We are partnering with local cultural heritage organizations, public libraries, and the Center for the Conservation of Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) to roll out the pilot to religious archives and small historical organizations in New Jersey.

State of the Pilot

Since February, the project team has been moving forward at a reasonable pace. We – SAA members and Section leaders Deb Schiff (a former NJLA H&P

officer), Alison Stankrauff, Michelle Ganz, Ashley Levine, and Russ Gasero, as well as Dyani Feige of CCAHA – have been reviewing the materials submitted from archivists across the country for consideration in the project. Importantly, we have obtained permissions to alter, use, and distribute all of the materials (handouts, bibliographies, and presentations) submitted.

Deb used Google Sheets to organize all of the project contributors in one place, with their contributions and contact information. Among the many who have volunteered time, space, and resources, H&P members Sarah Hull and Laura Poll have volunteered to provide space at the Plainfield and Trenton Public Libraries, respectively, for the workshops. Gary Saretzky will be a workshop presenter. Please contact Deb at debra.schiff@gmail.com to obtain a link to the sheet, to view all who have contributed in some way to the project so far, and their contributions.

For the workshop materials reviews, Deb used a Google Form so that the reviewers would have a standard method of reviewing each set of materials. Please contact Deb directly if you would like to see the form. The responses from the form are reported automatically into a page within a Google Sheet that lists all of the workshop materials, so that the project team can access everything in the same place. We expect to have reached a consensus on which materials to use for the workshops, any changes to be made, and the formats for each workshop by the end of April. Ashley developed interview questions for video interviews and participant surveys (part of the measures of success for the project). Michelle has developed forms for the instructors and participants. All will be reviewed by the entire project team after the workshops have been fully vetted.

Also, by the end of April, sites across the state of New Jersey will be selected, as well as workshop presenters (we have volunteer presenters who will be traveling from Pennsylvania and New York for the pilot workshops). By the end of May, it is hoped that the workshops will be scheduled with the sites, and we can begin promoting the workshops and selecting the cohort of participants. If you have recommendations for the cohort, please contact Deb directly with that information.

Annie Tummino, of the SAA Lone Arrangers Section Steering Committee, has organized a Lone Arrangers/Archivists to the Rescue Project Meet Up at the April MARAC meeting. There, Deb will give a short report on the project and sell the Archivist pin designed by the Los Angeles Archivists Collective as a fundraiser for the pilot. It is expected that a portion of the proceeds will go toward producing more pins to sell at the annual SAA meeting in Washington, D.C. (we will have a table at registration for the purposes). The remainder would go to expenses associated with the workshops.

SAA is in talks with vendors about donating supplies to the workshops and sponsoring the project in various ways. For more information, contact Deb Schiff at <u>debra.schiff@gmail.com</u>.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR INNOVATIVE ARCHIVES AWARD Submitted by Laura Poll, Archivist, Trenton Free Public Library

The New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) gives its annual Innovative Archives Award 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. The deadline for nominations is April 15, and affiliation with MARAC is not necessary. For more criteria and the nomination form, please see http://www.marac.info/new-jersey-caucus-awards.



Photo: 2017 award recipient Morristown National Historical Park's Library & Archives Jude M. Pfister, Chief of Cultural Resources (center), and Museum Technician Sarah Minegar accepting the award from Award Committee Chair L. Dale Patterson at Archives & History Day this past October.

NJ STUDIES ACADEMIC ALLIANCE AWARD WINNERS PANEL Submitted by Jessica Myers, Bloomfield Historical Society

On Tuesday, April 17, please join us to welcome our 2017 award winners:

New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Teaching Award, Dr. Mary Rizzo, Rutgers

Paul A. Stellhorn Award for Undergraduate Papers:

- Thesis: Samuel R. Fogelgaren, College of NJ
- Seminar Paper: Thomas R. Federowicz, Rutgers

Winners will present their winning work.

The NJ Studies Academic Alliance is an association for studying and teaching about New Jersey. Presentations and reception will begin at 4:15 and are open to all. The event will take place at the Archibald S. Alexander Library - Pane Room, Rutgers University, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ. Parking is available in lots 26 and 30 and deck without permits.

CALL FOR PAPERS: 2018 NEW JERSEY HISTORY FORUM Submitted by Greer Luce, Communications Officer, NJ Historical Commission (*Reprinted with permission*)

Greetings from New Jersey: Popular Culture & the Garden State November 2, Monmouth University

The New Jersey Historical Commission is pleased to announce the **2018 New Jersey History Forum**. Our host institution will be Monmouth University. This year's Forum focuses on New Jersey and American popular culture. From The Perils of Pauline to War of the Worlds, Count Basie, and The Sopranos, New Jersey has undeniably made its mark on popular culture in the United States and around the world. In 2018, the New Jersey Forum will consider the impactful work of New Jersey artists, musicians, filmmakers, writers, and actors over the course of the state's history.

The Forum is a biennial program that highlights the importance of studying and sharing local history and invites established and emerging scholars, educators, public historians, and a broad spectrum of social science and humanities researchers to present new research that facilitates greater public awareness of New Jersey history.

The focus of the Forum is on New Jersey, though topics relating to the broader Mid-Atlantic region will be considered. Although our theme is the history of popular culture, papers on any topic relating to New Jersey history will be considered.

The term popular culture is defined as: "Cultural activities or commercial products reflecting, suited to, or aimed at the tastes of the general masses of people" (Dictionary.com, Unabridged). As a focus for the 2018 Forum, popular culture broadly considered is our theme. Presentations exploring the arts and artists associated with the state and

their products: music, theater, film, television, literature, architecture, and graphic arts with a focus on popular culture are welcome, as are related topics such as foodways, advertising, fashion, and leisure activities. We encourage consideration of artistic works from NJ women, minorities, multi-ethnic groups, and the LGBTQ community.

The event attracts a mixed audience that includes scholars, public historians, and history enthusiasts. It is suggested that presenters do not read their papers; presentations that summarize research and encourage audience discussion are more successful. Some papers may also be selected for publication in *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, the online journal co-sponsored by Monmouth University, the New Jersey Historical Commission, and Rutgers University Libraries.

Submission:

Please 500-word email а abstract to Communications Officer, Greer Luce, at greer.luce@sos.nj.gov at the New Jersey Historical Commission by May 25, 2018. Your submission will be reviewed by the Forum Advisory Committee and you will be notified of the acceptance of your proposal no later than August 2018.

Proposals MUST include:

- Contact information (address, telephone, email)
- The title of the paper
- A one-paragraph bio that includes how you would like to be listed in Forum promotion materials
- An abstract of no more than 500 words
- Any audio-visual or electrical requirements necessary for your presentation.

NEW EXHIBIT CELEBRATES 115 YEARS OF ATLANTIC CITY LIBRARY SERVICES

Submitted by Don Latham, Atlantic City Free Public Library Public Information Officer

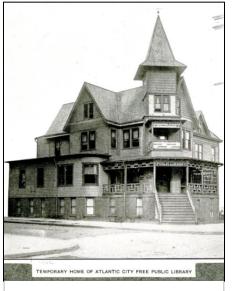
The Atlantic City Free Public Library has chronicled the services it has provided to the city since formally opening its doors in a house in 1903 through a new exhibit. The library unveiled **"The History of the Atlantic City Free Public Library: 115 Years in the Making"** in April at its Main Library location. The exhibit will remain on display through mid-June 2018.

Through the use of photos and artifacts from the library's Atlantic City Heritage Collections, the exhibit highlights many of the library's locations, staff, programs and services.

"The History of the Atlantic City Free Public Library: 115 Years in the Making" exhibit has been funded by the Paul Nee Fund of the Foundation of the Atlantic City Free Public Library. Nee (1956-90) was a lifelong resident of Atlantic City and worked for the library for nearly 20 years. He began his Atlantic



The Atlantic City Free Public Library has provided a variety of programs throughout its history including a popular international music and dance series on the famed Atlantic City Boardwalk. The Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble is shown in this photo.



The Atlantic City Free Public Library formally opened its doors in this wood-framed house in 1903 at Illinois and Pacific Avenues.

City Library career as a teenager and later became the Library Director in 1987.

The library's history dates back to November 1901 when a plan for a public library was embraced by Atlantic City residents in a landslide referendum, with 6,062 voters in favor and only 30 opposed. After a period of providing services at City Hall, the library formally opened its doors on Jan. 1, 1903, in a woodframed house at Illinois and Pacific avenues. The land at this site had been previously purchased to be the library's permanent location.

Subsequently, Andrew Carnegie donated \$71,000 for the construction of a new library building, and the dedication for this structure took place in 1905. The library remained in the building – now the **Carnegie Center, operated by Stockton University** – until 1985, when the current Main Library location at 1 North Tennessee Ave. opened.



A donation by Andrew Carnegie paid for construction of a new library building at Illinois and Pacific avenues. This building was dedicated in 1905, and it remained the library's home until the opening of its current Main Library location in 1985.

THE LONG AND CIRCUITOUS ROUTE TO A FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY Submitted by Liam Collins, Volunteer, Red Bank Public Library

Imagine Red Bank about ten years after the end of the American Civil War. All the streets were still dirt. People read by paraffin oil lamp because there was no electricity. Indoor plumbing was a rarity. Heating the home was provided by a fireplace. Horses and carriages were bustling around the town. Farmers in horse-drawn carts brought produce and goods in from farms as far away as Long Branch and Holmdel – a day's journey back and forth.

Grand Victorian-era homes lined the main streets of the town where prominent business families had built comfortable homes with wide porches and sprawling gardens. Trees lined the streets. Being a river town between the two main settlements of Shrewsbury and Middletown gave Red Bank a unique advantage: everyone came here to sell their goods which were sent up river to Manhattan.

They came bumping along the old corduroy log roads which covered part of Broad St. down to the steamboat docks along the North Shrewsbury (Navesink) River. That same road had once been an Indian trail leading down to the riverfront containing the rich oyster beds enjoyed by the Leni Lenape tribes just a few generations before. The main steamboat dock to New York is where the present day Marine Park is.

After bringing their goods to the steamboat dock, the farmers would head back up the hill into the village and have a cold drink at one of the local saloons that started popping up all over Red Bank. Sometimes it was too much to make the horse and cart ride back to the farm (especially with a pocket full of cash) and the hotels, inns and saloons were very inviting.

As the economy grew, the demand for products and services grew; grocery stores, clothing stores,

harness and leather shops, cart and wagon makers, barbers, bottlers, and butchers. Mostly all the buildings were made from wood. The sidewalks were made from boards of wood and were shaded by huge awnings. Gambling and the oldest profession of them all, had a place in the growing town.

Religious institutions sprung up almost as a counter weight to all the other mischief in town. Strong characters of all shapes and sizes, ethnic, political and religious background were part of the melting pot of Red Bank. Several Protestant denominations as well as a Roman Catholic church and Jewish synagogue were established. There were many people in town who wanted all of the saloons shut and alcohol prohibited even as early as the 1870s, much to the chagrin and protest of the saloon and innkeepers.

Against the backdrop of all this color and excitement was the growth of the town itself. Some of the older tracts of land which dated back to the Monmouth Patent (land granted by the King of Britain) were being sold off and developed. This attracted even more people to the town. Young builders, blacksmiths, laborers (many of them immigrants) came to Red Bank in search of work.

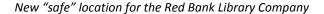
A group of people from town looked for ways to help occupy the idle time of the newcomers. One idea that had sprung up in surrounding towns was that of a reading room. This was the first concept of a place where people (particularly young men) could go to meet one another in a sober, intellectual and secular environment as an alternative to the many saloons and inns of the time. The Mutual Library Association (MLA) was therefore established around 1878. The "Reading Room" was in the Academy of Music of Red Bank at 30 Broad St. (presently Jack's Music Shop), while the books were housed at the Vandergrift's millinery shop (in the same building on Broad St). This arrangement worked for a while and in the early days fundraisers were held to purchase new books for the MLA.

Unfortunately, disaster struck on a Sunday night, at eight o'clock, November 6, 1882, when a good section of the old wooden town burned down on the west side of Broad St., taking with it nearly all the MLA books stored at the Vandergrift millinery shop. It took a couple of years to reorganize everything. In the meantime, the townspeople built up the volume of books again. They were briefly housed this time at the Corlies clothing store (14 or 16 Broad St.). The MLA members then decided to rent space for the reading room upstairs in the Childs Building on Broad St. where it remained for 17 years. The organization was renamed the Red Bank Circulating Library in 1884. The library was again reorganized and renamed in 1890 at which time it was called The Red Bank Library Company.

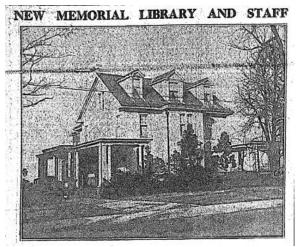
About 1910, the library was moved to the upper floor of the Weis Building at 14 Monmouth St. This building was also known as the "Odd Fellows Building" because it is where the group with the same name used to meet. This building was owned by A. Max Weis, the brother of Bertha Weis, wife of Sigmund Eisner. In 1923, under the leadership of Archibald L. Miller, the library gained public legal status and was reorganized as the Free Municipal Public Library of Red Bank. The library remained at 14 Monmouth St. and grew to over 10,000 books.

After more than 20 years in the Weis Building, in 1932 the library was moved to the Swift building at 69 Monmouth St. This gave the public street access to the library which had for so many years had the reading room upstairs in the various previous buildings.

A Buick automobile carrying license number 25,245 skidded on Monmouth street yesterday morning in front of the Odd Fellows building and collided with a pole. One of the rear wheels of the car was smashed and the front axle was bent. No one was hurt. The hub of the wheel struck the pole with such force that the name of the automobile which was on the hub was imprinted on the pole. A bicycle belonging to Daniel Dean of Little Silver, which was standing against the pole, was demolished.



In 1937, the sons of Sigmund and Bertha Eisner (H Raymond, J Lester and Monroe) – who were also the nephews of A. Max Weis (Odd Fellows Building), gifted the former residence of their parents at 84 West Front St. to the town to be used as a library. The library was once again renamed as the Eisner Memorial Red Bank Public Library. This is where the present library is and has been for the past 81 years.



April 15 1937 Eisner Memorial Library opens in its permanent home.

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND NEW JERSEY

Alice Paul Institute, Mount Laurel, NJ Submitted by Jessica Myers, Bloomfield Historical Society

The Ladies of Trenton

Wednesday, June 27, 6:30 pm

Catherine Hudak will present *The Ladies of Trenton,* hosted by the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance together with the Alice Paul Institute on Wednesday evening June 27 at 6:30 pm.

Using the *Ladies of Trenton* as a case study, Ms. Hudak will discuss the extent and forms of women's political activism in the early national period, and the pivotal roles women played in the formation of the vibrant political culture that emerged in the late 18th century America.

The *Ladies of Trenton* were a group of New Jersey women who refashioned gender roles for women in politics and print. Early on they organized a campaign to assist the Continental Army and a public tribute to newly-elected George Washington.

The Alice Paul Institute is located at 128 Hooten Rd., Mount Laurel, NJ. <u>http://www.alicepaul.org</u>

Elizabeth Public Library Submitted by Aimee Fernandez-Puente, Supervisor Local History and Special Collections Department

Exhibit: Elizabeth Public Library's Collections from the Civil War

April 2 - 27, Main Library

The Elizabeth Public Library's Local History & Special Collections Dept. will be exhibiting materials from its collections covering the Civil War Era. Items on exhibit include Civil War envelopes, Confederate currency, and other ephemera of the times.

The Ark, the Grail, and the Quest for Discovery Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 – 8 pm, Main Library

Each Indiana Jones adventure transports us to places of high adventure and intrigue, where the secrets of earlier times are discovered one clue at a time. Archaeologists dig up the past and we are often fascinated with what is uncovered. Why? Through a look at the history and legend of the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail, participants can learn how archaeology helps us understand the past as well as why we are so captivated by digging it up.

Christopher M. Bellitto, Ph.D., is Professor of History at Kean University, where he teaches courses in ancient, medieval and religious history. He is the author of 10 books and over two dozen peer-reviewed articles appearing in the United States and Europe. In addition, he is a frequent media commentator and public lecturer on church history and contemporary Catholicism. This program has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH). findings, conclusions. Any views. or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or NJCH.

Exhibit: History of Newsprint in Elizabeth May 1 - 29, Main Library

From the late 1700s through the 2000s over 34 different newspapers were published in the city of

Elizabeth. Our exhibit will highlight some of the more prominent and obscure papers published in the last 300 years.

A Summer with Carnegie Series

The Elizabeth Public Library, in conjunction with the Union County Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, will be hosting programs and exhibits highlighting the history of Carnegie libraries in New Jersey throughout the months of June through August.

Local Carnegie Libraries of Union County: Past and Present

Wednesday, June 13, 6 - 7 pm, Main Library

Join us in a moderated panel discussion on the history of Carnegie Libraries in Union County. Panelists from five Union County Carnegie Libraries: Cranford, Elizabeth, Plainfield, Summit and Westfield will discuss the history and current state of their respective buildings.

A Carnegie Library: The History of the Elizabeth Public Library exhibit

July 2 - 28, Main Library

Did you know there are two Carnegie Library buildings in Elizabeth? Learn about the history of these buildings; one building still functioning as a public library, the other a senior center. The Elizabeth Public Library will be exhibiting original materials from the design, construction, and evolution of our Carnegie Libraries.

New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Lecture: Carnegie Libraries in New Jersey

Thursday, August 9, 4:30 -7:30 pm, Main Library Please join the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance and the Union County Cultural & Heritage

Commission at the Elizabeth Public Library for a presentation by Eleonora Dubicki on "Carnegie Libraries in New Jersey, 1900-1923." Elizabeth Public Library is one of only 20 Carnegie Libraries of the original 36 left in the state that still operates as a public library. Carnegie libraries constructed in the early 1900s through the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie played a significant role in transforming the library movement from subscription libraries for special interest groups to free public libraries with services accessible by all. Of the 1,412 communities in the United States to build Carnegie libraries, 29 communities in New Jersey benefited from this program. This presentation based on a research project draws primarily on original correspondence between New Jersey communities seeking library building funds and Andrew Carnegie. The letters supporting funding applications create a unique demographic and economic snapshot of New Jersey communities during the early 1900s when the Carnegie libraries were erected in the state.

Eleonora Dubicki is a reference and instruction librarian at Monmouth University. She has published two books and more than a dozen articles on topics in the field of library and information science. The primary focus of her research is on information literacy and information seeking behaviors. She holds an undergraduate degree in American Studies from Douglass College and a MLS and MBA from Rutgers University.

Ocean County Library

Submitted by Colleen Goode, Adult Services Librarian, Toms River Branch

The Fiddle in America

Tuesday, April 10, 7 – 8 pm, Berkeley Branch

In this interactive session, Matthew Backes, a professor of American Studies at Rutgers University, shares the origins and history of American fiddle music covering a range of styles and modes of expression. Dr. Backes raises big questions about musical tradition and music-making along the way. *This program is funded by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.*

Holocaust Remembrance Day: A Survivor's Story

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 pm, Toms River Branch Writer and producer Otto Salamon will share his experiences as a young boy whose family was deeply impacted by the Holocaust. He is the author

of Dodging Death: a Family on the Run. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean County Library – Toms River.

The Titanic & The Halifax Connection

Monday, April 16, 7 – 8 pm, Waretown Branch

In the aftermath of history's most devastating nautical disaster, the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia made valiant efforts to recover the victims of the RMS Titanic. Sandy Gray has made numerous visits studying the burial and memorial sites located in Halifax. Her vast knowledge of the retrieval process, of personal stories, and other intriguing facts bring this piece of history back to life.

The Hindenburg Disaster

Thursday, May 10, 1 – 2 pm, Beachwood Branch

The Naval Lakehurst Historical Society Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst will present a slide show and lecture on the Hindenburg disaster. View artifacts from the disaster following the lecture.

Forgotten Flu...Now Remembered

Thursday, May 17, 10 am, Long Beach Island Branch

This presentation by Jim Curley will focus on the outbreak in 1918, the U.S. and worldwide response, efforts to prevent future catastrophes, and on the heroes that battled this unseen lethal enemy.

D-Day: The Largest Sea Invasion in Naval History

Wednesday, May 23, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Brick Branch On June 6, 1944, the allied forces launched the largest sea invasion in history. Join Paul Zigo, the Director of the World War II Studies Institute, for a riveting discussion of the day that changed the course of world events.

The Longest Walk

Wednesday, June 13, 10 am, Long Beach Island Branch

Author Paul Zigo will discuss his book *The Longest Walk*, the story of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division which landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. The talk will detail the unit's actions that day and its subsequent maneuvers to capture St. Lo, France, 40 agonizing days later. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Island Library*.

Paul Robeson Library, Rutgers University-Camden Submitted by Bart Howard Everts, Reference Librarian Liaison to Rowan University and Camden County College in Camden

The Paul Robeson library is hosting a series of events to honor our namesake Paul Robeson's 120th birthday. All events are open to the public

Exhibit: Who Was Paul Robeson?

March 15 - May 15

Learn more about the early life, film and recording career of Paul Robeson, as well as his dedication to social activism in this free exhibit. Paul Robeson Library.

Screening and panel discussion Paul Robeson: 20th Century Renaissance Man, Entertainer & Activist

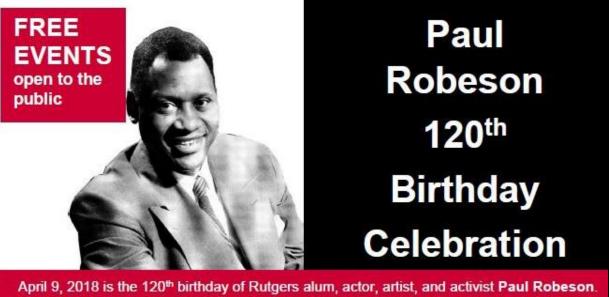
Wednesday, April 11, 6 – 8 pm

Robeson's many achievements are chronicled in this documentary, ranging from playing on the Rutgers football team to graduating from Columbia Law School, performing on Broadway and in Hollywood films to his social activism and blacklisting during the McCarthy era.

Following the short film, there will be a panel discussion with the Director of the Paul Robeson House in West Philadelphia and a Robeson family historian. Birthday cake and light refreshments will be served! Rutgers University Alumni House, 312 Cooper St, Camden N.J.

Happy Birthday to You, Paul Robeson! Saturday, April 28, 10 am – 4 pm

Join us in celebrating the 120th birthday of our university library's namesake, Paul Robeson! Sign a jumbo birthday card, make a button, or take a selfie with the actor, activist, and alum. Rutgers Day – Camden (near Penn & N. 5th Streets, Camden, NJ).



Please join in a celebration of his life and accomplishments at the following events:

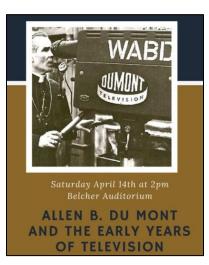
Ridgewood Public Library

Submitted by Sarah Kiefer, Local History Librarian, Bolger Heritage Center

Allen B. Du Mont and the Early Years of Television

Saturday, April 14, 2 pm, Belcher Auditorium Phil Jaeger's program traces Allen B. Du Mont's career beginning with the development of a durable

cathode ray tube in the garage of his Cedar Grove home in the early 1930s. Later that decade, the Du Mont Model 180 was sold as America's first commercial electronic television set. Du



Mont later founded television station WABD in New York City, which soon became the flagship station for the Du Mont Television Network. Ernie Kovacs, Mike Wallace and Jackie Gleason began their careers on this network. All welcome, no registration required.

Census Records (tech class)

Tuesday, April 17, 7 pm

Census Records provide some of the best and most interesting information about ancestors. Find out what information is available as well as tricks for finding "missing" relatives. Registration and small fee required.

Using familysearch.org (tech class) Saturday, April 21, 10:30 am

Learn about the wealth of records and research help available for free on familysearch.org. Registration and small fee required.

Ancestry DNA Results and How I Use Them Monday, April 23, 7 pm

Russ Worthington will review the Ancestry DNA website, showing how to use the results to answer genealogy questions. Genealogical Society of Bergen County's monthly meeting which is open to the public, no registration required.

Camp Merritt: The Camp Beautiful Saturday, May 12, at 2 pm

Located in Cresskill and Dumont, Camp Merritt was a WWI embarkation camp, through which over 1,000,000 soldiers passed. Peggy Norris and Joe Suplicki share camp images and information, and highlight Peggy's grandfather's journey from Ohio to France and home through Camp Merritt. All welcome, no registration required.

Visit **Storytellers @RPL** on the Ridgewood Public Library website. We have 22 stories ready for listening and more on the way. With funding from a 2016 grant through the Bergen County Historical & Cultural Affairs Department, we've launched an oral history project. Its mission: to capture Ridgewood stories to preserve our history for future generations. We're recording people's stories, making them available on our website and maintaining them in our local archive. Interested in being interviewed or becoming an interviewer? Please contact Local History Librarian Sarah Kiefer at HeritageCenter@ridgewoodlibrary.org or call 201-670-5600, ext. 135.

https://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org/storytellers-rpl

Somerset County Library System Submitted by Ken Kaufman, New Jersey Librarian

Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers

Tuesday, April 10, 7 - 8:30 pm, Hillsborough Branch Of the approximately 3,000 different photographers who were active in New Jersey before 1900, a number lived or worked in Somerset County. In a slide lecture, Monmouth County archivist Gary D. Saretzky will profile these pioneers and discuss them within the larger context of New Jersey photography in the nineteenth century. As seen in the slides, these photographers documented the people and places of their times but, in addition, their individual histories provide insight into social conditions of their era.

The Rise and Fall of Negro League Baseball

Thursday, April 12, 7 - 8:30 pm

Mary Jacobs Branch, Program Room

Jonathan Mercantini discusses the history of the Negro Leagues including important New Jersey baseball legends, Effa Manley and Larry Doby.

John Honeyman: The Griggstown Spy

Tuesday, April 17, 7 - 8:30 pm, Mary Jacobs Branch Tim Stollery presents the story of John Honeyman, a Griggstown butcher and cattle dealer, who according to legend, became a spy for General Washington. He will invite attendees to join in debunking supporting or the legend of Washington's spy at Trenton. A half hour television program about Honeyman from the 1960's will be available immediately after to view the presentation.

Colonial New Jersey from Contact to Revolution

Tuesday, May 8, 7 - 8:30pm Bound Brook Branch, Finlayson Room Dr. Jonathan Mercantini will explore the creation of

New Jersey including the development of East and

West Jersey and the legacies of those separate colonies. He will contrast the issue of slavery in the two original provinces and will then discuss slavery in New Jersey generally. He will examine the state's emergence as a center for agricultural development and as a key transportation network; and also consider tensions surrounding land ownership and taxation on the eve of the American Revolution.

<u>A History of Wagner Farm Arboretum</u> Wednesday, May 16, 7 - 8:30 pm

Warren Township Branch, Meeting Room

Explore the history of Wagner Farm Arboretum and learn about its endeavors to help the community experience our natural environment. From its humble beginnings as a small family dairy farm to a destination for environmental awareness, Wagner Farm Arboretum has become an institution in Warren Township. Learn about its valuable contributions and impact on the Township in this presentation by members of the Wagner Farm Arboretum staff.

Meet the Author: Joseph G. Bilby

Wednesday, May 30, 2-3 pm, Bridgewater Branch Mr. Bilby will speak on New Jersey's role in World War I. The lecture will include the election of President Woodrow Wilson, the massive increase in industrialization brought on by the struggle in Europe, German sabotage in the state, a reluctance to enter the conflict, which turned into fervid patriotism after war was declared and the massive training and transit installations at Camp Dix and Camp Merritt.

<u>The Fiddle in America, a History and</u> <u>Demonstration</u>

Saturday, June 9, 1 - 2:30 pm, Mary Jacobs Branch Dr. Matthew Backes explores the origins and history of American fiddle music, covering a range of styles and modes of expression. He started playing stringed instruments at 15 years old. When he's not fiddling, singing, or picking mandolin or guitar, Backes teaches American Studies at Rutgers University.

Meet the Author: Rick Geffken

Tuesday, July 17, 7 – 8 pm, Bridgewater Branch

Rick Geffken's and George Severini's new book, *Lost Amusement Parks of the North Jersey Shore*, brings together rarely seen images from the Library of Congress, local historical societies, and private collections to document how the Jersey Shore became the most famous vacation and recreational destination in the coastal United States. The remarkable details in these pictures capture a simpler way of life in our country, when families took their children to boardwalks to savor candy apples, salt water taffy, hot dogs and hamburgers, popcorn, and, of course, the rides.

Postcards from the Edge of Somerset County

Wednesday, July 18, 7 - 8:30 pm, North Plainfield Branch

Mary Nelson, local history librarian at Bound Brook Memorial Library, will present a slideshow of historic postcards from the library's collection. The postcards feature places in Bound Brook and the neighboring vicinity and provide insight into how the town developed its businesses, transportation systems, institutions, and community organizations during the industrial era.

Landscapes of New Jersey

Wednesday, August 15, 7 - 8:30 pm, Warren Township Branch

Local photographer Dave Blinder will give an inside look at the images included in his comprehensive "Landscapes of New Jersey" exhibit on display at the library in August and September. He will present one nature photograph depicting each of New Jersey's 21 counties. Learn how, where, and why each image was captured, as well as the challenges of taking on a large statewide project. Personal anecdotes of Dave's photographic journey will also be shared.

Lighthouses of New Jersey

Tuesday, August 28, 7 – 8 pm, Bridgewater Branch This program is presented by Cindy Mitzen of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. Learn the history, characteristics, and advancements of lighthouses, and the reasons we still need them. The presenter will delve into New Jersey's land based lighthouses and several offshore lighthouses.

2018 Exhibits at the Trenton Free Public Library Submitted by Laura M. Poll, C.A., Archivist, Trentoniana, Trenton Free Public Library

The following exhibits will be on display in 2018:

"Portraits" – Amanda McCutcheon April 10 - May 3



Amanda McCutcheon grew up in suburban central NJ and rural Chester County, PA. She received an MFA from Columbia University and attended the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

A series of large format black-and-white photographs of WWI monuments around New Jersey.

"Platform Zero" – Andrew Wilkinson June 4 - 28

devoted perception.

Reception: Thursday, June 7, 5:30 -7 pm Formally trained in fine art and media communications, Wilkinson creates reconstructions of everyday objects that challenge even the most



"Legacy of Remembrance" – Erik L. Burro May 22 - 31 Reception & Artist's Talk: Thursday, May 24, 5:30-7 pm



Upcoming Exhibits:

- Kenneth Lewis, July 3 31
- Enrique Zaldivar, August 6 30
- Sharon Huey, October 2 25
- TAWA Art All Day

Be sure to also visit our changing displays in the Atrium Galley outside the Trentoniana Room

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 2018 – Preservation Week begins April 22nd

Through May 3: Exhibit: Portraits- Amanda McCutcheon, Trenton Public Library

Through May 15: Exhibit: Who Was Paul Robeson? Paul Robeson Library, Rutgers-Camden.

Through mid-June: *Exhibit: The History of the Atlantic City Free Public Library*

2 – 27: *Exhibit: Elizabeth Public Library's Collections from the Civil War,* Elizabeth Public Library

10: The Fiddle in America, OCL – Berkeley Branch, 7 – 8 pm

Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers, SCLS – Hillsborough Branch, 7 – 8:30 pm

 Paul Robeson: 20th Century Renaissance Man, Entertainer & Activist, Paul Robeson Library, Rutgers University – Camden, 6 – 8 pm Internet Genealogy (tech class), Ridgewood Public Library, 7 pm

12: *Holocaust Remembrance Day: A Survivor's Story*, OCL - Toms River Branch, 6:30 pm

The Rise and Fall of Negro League Baseball, SCLS – Mary Jacobs Branch, 7 – 8:30 pm

14: Allen B. Du Mont and the Early Years of Television, Ridgewood Public Library, 2 pm

15: Deadline for nominations for **Innovative Archives Award**

16: The Titanic & The Halifax Connection, OCL - Waretown Branch, 7 – 8 pm

17: Archival Basics: Tools for the Unexpected Archivist, Rutgers University, 9:30 am

Census Records (tech class), Ridgewood Public Library, 7 pm

NJSAA Award Winners Panel Presentation & Reception, Rutgers University, 4:15 pm

John Honeyman: The Griggstown Spy, SCLS – Mary Jacobs Branch, 7 – 8:30 pm

- **18:** Yesterday's News for Today's Technology: Exploring the New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project, New Jersey State Library, 10 am
- 21: Using Familysearch.org (tech class), Ridgewood Public Library, 10:30 am

23: Ancestry DNA Results and How I Use Them, Ridgewood Public Library, 7 pm

25: Preservation Day, Monmouth Co. Archives, Monmouth Co. Library, Manalapan, 10 am – 2 pm

25: The Ark, the Grail, and the Quest for Discovery, Elizabeth Public Library, 6:30 - 8 pm

28: *Happy Birthday to You, Paul Robeson!*, Rutgers Day – Camden, 10 am – 4 pm

MAY 2018 – NJLA Conference May 30th- June 1st

1 – 29: Exhibit: History of Newsprint in Elizabeth

8: Colonial New Jersey from Contact to Revolution, SCLS – Bound Brook Branch, 7 – 8:30 pm

10: *The Hindenburg Disaster*, OCL - Beachwood Branch, 1 – 2 pm,

12: Camp Merritt: The Camp Beautiful, Ridgewood Public Library, 2 pm

16: A History of Wagner Farm Arboretum, SCLS – Warren Township Branch, 7 – 8:30 pm

17: Forgotten Flu...Now Remembered, OCL – Long Beach Island Branch, 10 am

19: Community History Day, Newark Public Library, Main Library, 10 am – 3 pm

22 – 31: Exhibit: Legacy of Remembrance – Erik L. Burro, Trenton Free Public Library

23: D-Day: The Largest Sea Invasion in Naval History, OCL – Brick Branch, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

24: Reception & Artist's Talk, Trenton Free Public Library, 5:30 – 7 pm

25: Deadline for submission of papers for the New Jersey History Forum

30: Meet the Author: Joseph G. Bilby, SCLS – Bridgewater Branch, 2 – 3 pm

May 30-June 1: NJLA Annual Conference, Harrah's, Atlantic City

31: NJLA H&P Section Workshop Raise Your Voices, 11:30 am

JUNE 2018

1: NJLA H&P Section Workshop, Digitization on a Dime, 11:30 am; co-sponsored program, We Go Way

Back, 3:40 pm

4 – 28: Exhibit: Platform Zero – Andrew Wilkinson, Trenton Free Public Library

7: Reception, Andrew Wilkinson, Trenton Free Public Library, 5:30 – 7 pm

9: The Fiddle in America, SCLS – Mary Jacobs Branch, 1 – 2:30 pm

13: Local Carnegie Libraries of Union County: Past and Present, Elizabeth Public Library, 6 – 7 pm

The Longest Walk, OCL – Long Beach Island Branch, 10 am

27: The Ladies of Trenton, the Alice Paul Institute, Mount Laurel, NJ, 6:30 pm

JULY 2018

2 - 28: Exhibit: A Carnegie Library: The History of the Elizabeth Public Library

3-31: Exhibit: Kenneth Lewis, Trenton Free Public Library

17: Meet the Author: Rick Geffken, SCLS – Bridgewater Branch, 7 – 8 pm

18: Postcards from the Edge of Somerset County, SCLS – North Plainfield Branch, 7 – 8:30 pm

AUGUST 2018

6-30: Exhibit: Enrique Zaldivar, Trenton Free Public Library

9: New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Lecture: Carnegie Libraries in New Jersey, Elizabeth Public Library, 4:30 – 7:30 pm

15: *Landscapes of New Jersey*, SCLS – Warren Township Branch, 7 – 8:30 pm

28 Lighthouses of New Jersey, SCLS – Bridgewater Branch, 7 – 8 pm