**NJLA History and Preservation Section**

**General Meeting**

**May 30, 2024**

**NJLA Conference – Harrahs Casino, Atlantic City**

**Present:** John Beekman, Tom Ryder, Beth Zak-Cohen, Jacquelyn Oshman, Katrina Zwaaf, Teresa Bayles, Juber Ayala, Vanessa Castaldo, Kathlyn Kelly, Gary Saretzky, James Cox, Laura Poll, Tara Maharjan, Andrew Dauphinee, Sally Weiner, Yesenia Lopez

Meeting Opened 12:05

Agenda was circulated.

Minutes from April General Meeting were passed around. Motion to approve by Gary S. Second by Laura P. Approved by acclimation.

**President’s Report**: John Beekman

* Introduction of new officers: Juber Ayala (President), Jacqueline Silver-Morillo (VP), Jacquelyn Oshman (continuing Secretary), Kathlyn Kelly (continuing Newsletter), no current Social Media Chair, John Beekman (Past President).
* An Executive Committee meeting will take place in August to plan meetings and potentially nominate a new Social Media Chairperson.
* We had a good year this year and we hope to build upon it for next year
  + H&P and MARAC held an in person tour of the State Archives and State Museum on February 19th. Thanks to Tara for organizing two tours.
  + first in person meeting since COVID (and our first ever hybrid meeting) – thanked Sarah.

**Vice President’s Report**: Juber Ayala

* List of Conference workshops sponsored by H&P were handed out. Some times have more than 1 session unfortunately.
* Looking forward to being President next year and having Newark (HRIC) host a meeting.

**Awards Committee Report**: Beth Zak-Cohen

* The winner of the Susan Swartzburg Award for 2024 is Laura Poll. The award was given at the Awards Ceremony that night.
  + Nominees that didn’t win will be eligible again next year
* McDonough Award nominations are now open. The deadline is August 1st and it will be awarded at History and Archives Day in the fall. The announcement can be found in the recent issue of the Chronicle.

**Newsletter Report:** Kathlyn Kelly

* Thanked everyone for their contributions and feedback on previous issues.
* Deadline for the next issue is July 23rd and it will be released in mid-late August and will include highlights from NJLA.
* Please include any events you know of that will take place between late August and mid-November.
* Email her at [kkelly@sclibnj.org](mailto:kkelly@sclibnj.org)

**Web/Social Media Report:**

* Because Jacqueline is our incoming VP, a new Web/Social Media Coordinator is needed. If interested, reach out to John Beekman (jbeekman@jclibrary.org) – he will send out an email.
* John B. asked the attendees if we feel this position is still necessary given the low numbers the posts generate.
  + A suggestion was made to change the current page or create a new page that allows everyone in the group to post information instead of a single admin.

**NJLA Archives and History Committee Report**: Teresa Bayles (Fred P. absent)

* Teresa encouraged all attendees to come to the presentation on Friday about “Mining the NJLA Archives”
* The committee has toured the collection at the Talking Book and Braille Center in order to create a Strategic plan and surveyed what is in the drawers.
* Some members are deep diving into interesting historical figures who were prominent in NJLA such as Roger McDonough and Bea James.
* Interesting finds so far: Program from the joint NJLA/PA Library Group conference in 1897 (with special guest Melvil Dewey) and audio recordings circa 1981 (a lot are undated).
* There is information on all NJLA member libraries that may be of interest to all when the information is eventually preserved.
* Gary S. performed the CAPES Survey
  + Gary asked if there was an effort to avoid duplication between the NJLA Archive and the H&P Archive housed at Plainfield Public Library
    - Laura stated that once everything has been gone through, they will find the gaps in information and the Archivist will reach out for more information
    - Most information in the collection is prior to 2012 because after that, files were stored electronically.

**Other Business:**

* A combination Birthday and Retirement card was circulated and also available at the H&P table for Jessica Myers.
* The Bylaws state the Section needs “up to 4 Members at Large” so there is no urgency to fill Jessica’s position, unless someone is willing to volunteer (the duties are not onerous). This will be discussed at the Executive Board meeting.
* John reminded everyone of the positive virtues of being a member of sections and committees (H&P, MARAC, NJLA, etc). Having a leadership role is even more beneficial.

**Member Updates:**

John Beekman (Jersey City Public Library) – Not too much new except the multiyear renovation project that is beginning on the interior of the building. Danny Klein has been acting as interim manager, but the position has just opened for applicants.

Tom Ryder (Newark Public Library) – Works in the NJ Room at Newark and is interested in becoming a member of the Section.

Beth Zak-Cohen (Newark Public Library) – They have completed digitizing the Newark News and they found a newspaper record regarding the 1891 NJLA/PA Conference that we have the program for in the Archives.

Jacquelyn Oshman (New Brunswick Free Public Library) – Updates from Kim Adams: As of September 2, our intern Zach will be a Library Associate (paid position) as well as an intern continuing the scanning of the Hall Mills materials. Summer interns: Spencer Copeland will be updating information we have on the Henry Guest House (Historical Register building on library property), Karlene and Sofia are continuing learning preservation techniques and inventorying artwork. Professional Development – Sessions will be held at East Jersey Olde Town in Piscataway. Tara M. will be presenting how to make a finding aide on October 20th and then a behind-the-scenes tour of the village will take place. Deyani of CCAHA will be presenting basic and maybe advanced preservation skills tentatively on October 13th. We are also preparing for RevolutionNJ with a few speakers and an exhibit between September 2025 and all of 2026 (grant being submitted to MCCHC): Maxine Lurie on 10/25/25 (NB in the Revolution), Fernanda Perrone and Ann D. Gordon (suffrage in NB and Middlesex County) TBD, possibly Linda Epps (Great Migration), possibly Bill Davis (Civil Rights and school resegregation), possibly Helene van Rossum (early Dutch settlers and their slaves).

Katrina Zwaaf (Somerset County) – Tech. Services. No new information, but encouraged attendees to come to her presentation titled “It’s Time to Get GLAMed”.

Teresa Bayles (Somerset County) – Tech. Services manager. She has been digging through forgotten cabinets for interesting information in Somerset County branches. They are digitizing the Bound Brook Chronicle from microfilm, preparing programming for RevolutionNJ, digitizing the NJLA Archive, and recently recorded a “History Happens Here” video.

Juber Ayala (Newark Public Library – NJHRIC) – The HRIC has 2 interns for the summer and there will be a panel on Friday titled “Solo Archivists and interns: Tackling Archival Backlogs”

Vanessa Castaldo (Newark Public Library) – There will be a program on Tuesday, June 4th on the Newark City Directory. She is tackling processing backlog and has processed a collection and created a finding aid on the Newark riots. She has an intern from the Arts Internship program for the summer.

Kathlyn Kelly (Somerset County Library) – Somerset’s list of programming for the summer can be found in the most recent edition of the Chronicle. She wanted to point out the June 29th program about Pirates of New Jersey. If anyone has photos of members, panels, etc. from the conference, please email them to her at [kkelley@sclibnj.org](mailto:kkelley@sclibnj.org)

### Gary Saretzky (Retired – Monmouth County Archives) The next Princeton Preservation Group meeting is June 13th and is listed in the Chronicle. Meetings are free to attend and membership is only $5 a year. The program will discuss the Community-driven project to document lives of industrial workers in Roebling, New Jersey. He is working on a book that encompasses the Grant Castner exhibit that was at the NJ State Museum and is also working on new lectures. He will be delivering the keynote speech at Archives and History Day at Brookdale College on October 26th. Check his webpage for more information.

### James Cox (Hoboken Public Library) – Awarded a grant from the Library of Congress on an exhibit about the Puerto Rican diaspora (collaborating with the LoC collections). He is also digitizing information with Internet Archive.

### Laura Poll (Trenton Public Library) – The City Records are almost finished and finding aids are being created. They currently have 120 artifacts uploaded to their PastPerfect searchable database.

### Tara Maharjan (NJ State Archives) – Encouraged everyone to attend her presentation on Thursday titled “A Backward Approach: The NJSA’s Electronic Records Program”. After 4 years, she is no longer the NJ representative for MARAC – new rep is Diane Biunno of the Institute of Jazz Studies (Tara is encouraging her to attend H&P meetings). The MARAC Innovative Archives Award is being presented to [Alliance Heritage Center of Stockton University](https://stockton.edu/alliance-heritage/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1VVv15d_tFqgwjq3Gw-fiAfC6pHC7_sjeEEyFxhSvHMEv2rl3kN8codpg_aem_ARUlKzc8NFgzwZijyqNKugVnEAAk0pxdiKQFz0HCji6A2AUUXhpXaAZoIWjARqquP_DDAHf1C-5yjjY3W5Pz5GmP). (ceremony TBD).

### Andrew Dauphinee (NJ State Library) – He will be on a panel on Friday regarding RevolutionNJ. The NJSL is currently working on a “Get to know your local historical society” project aimed at collecting information on all historical collections in the state so patrons can be easily referred to the best location. They will compile the information into a database and include videos that the organizations can submit.

### Sally Weiner (Plainfield Public Library) – Hosted the Tri-County History Day in May and had fewer tables but it went well. They attempted to collect photos from past 4th of July parades but they didn’t get many donations, so they are putting their own items on exhibit for the 100th Anniversary. They recently filmed a “History Happens Here” video about the city riots.

### Yesenia Lopez (Newark Public Library – NJHRIC) – She will be on the panel with Juber on Friday regarding interns. She is busy prepping their collection to be moved during renovations.

Motion to close the meeting by Tara M. Second by Katrina Z. Meeting Closed 12:48pm.

**NJLA History & Preservation Section Sponsored Programs for**

**2024 Annual Conference**

**Thursday and Friday, May 30-31, 2024**

* Zine Zone Creative Space
  + Laura M. Poll, Kathy Mulholland, Cristen Orbanus and Jenna Ingham
    - Exhibit Hall, all day

**Thursday, May 30, 2024**

* A Backward Approach: The New Jersey State Archives’ Electronic Records Program
  + Tara Maharjan and Danielle Marchetti
    - 3:40 pm - 4:30
* Let’s Talk Zines - Break the barrier of having zines in your library
  + Laura M. Poll, Kathy Mulholland, Cristen Orbanus and Jenna Ingham
    - 3:40 pm - 4:30
* It’s Time to Get GLAMed: Cataloging and Description at Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums
  + Katrina Zwaaf, Natasha Zaleski, Heidi Warbasse and Juber Ayala
    - 4:40 pm - 5:30

**Friday, May 31, 2024**

* The Revolution is coming to your Library in 2026!
  + Sara Cureton, Marc Lorenc, Andrew Dauphinee, and John Beekman
    - 9:00 am - 9:50
* Solo Archivists and Interns: Tackling Archival Backlogs
  + Juber Ayala, Yesenia López and Vanessa Castaldo
    - 9:00 am - 9:50
* Digging for Treasure in the NJLA Archive
  + Frederic Pachman, Laura M. Poll and Teresa Ana Bayles
    - 2:10 pm - 3:00