

Minutes for March 14, 2016 NJLA History & Preservation Section Meeting held at Trenton Free Public Library, Trenton, NJ.

The joint meeting with MARAC NJ Caucus was called to order at approximately 10:15 PM. In attendance were Section officers Deb Schiff, Carolyn Dorsey, and Ken Kaufman. Also in attendance were Tom Ankner, Bruce Bardarik, John Beekman, Colleen Goode, Jacqueline Haun, Danny Klein, Jessica Myers, Karl Neiderer, Laura Poll, Gary Saretzky, and Bob Walk.

Introductions were made.

Minutes

Minutes from December 7, 2015 were reviewed. Jessica motioned and Tom seconded that the minutes be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Carolyn announced that H&P sponsored programs are set for the Annual Conference. Flyers will go out with the details. Tuesday's programs are "Municipal Records in Public Libraries" and "Telling Your Library's Story". Wednesday's programs are "Fundamentals of Preservation Care", "New Jersey Authors Speak", "Starting from Scratch: The Challenges and Triumphs in Creating a Local History Collection", and "Keeping Up with Copyright to Protect Your Library". Deb added that we are co-sponsoring a program at the Pre-Conference on how Lyrasis' digitization collaborative brings "hidden" collections online.

Jessica reported that the Awards Committee has finalized the Susan Swartzburg Award selection, which will be announced at the Annual Conference.

Deb listed the Nominating Committee's 2016-2017 slate of Section officers, as follows: President – Carolyn Dorsey, Morristown and Morris Township Public Library; Vice President/President-Elect – Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library; Secretary – Ken Kaufman, Somerset County Library System; and Members-at-Large – Colleen Goode, Ocean County Library; Bruce Bardarik, Paterson Public Library; Nancy Madacsi, Sussex County Historical Society; and Tim Corlis, Rutgers University.

Danny gave the latest on our Facebook page, which has been accumulating 20 to 50 views per post. He encouraged members to follow and post events.

Gary's work with H&P archival materials has been focused on organizing what is already at Monmouth County Archives. He is open to receiving materials from any past presidents. John asked about a digital component, which Gary sees as a real potential going forward.

Old Business

Deb has posted her "About Us" write-up on the Section webpage at NJLA Central. It provides a snapshot of who we are and what we do. Take a look at it, and let Deb know if you would like to make additions or changes at our next meeting.

New Business

Deb provided the latest continuing education opportunity: Erika Gorder will be teaching an Archival Basics for Librarians course at Rutgers on March 22nd.

At the Annual Conference, Deb would like to reserve a Section table. To move ahead, we will need materials for display and members to staff it.

Announcements

Jacqueline relayed that Lawrenceville School is instituting a records retention policy.

Bob mentioned the work with Robert A Roe Papers at the William Paterson University Archives. Roe was a US congressman from Passaic County between 1969 and 1993.

Gary outlined this year's Preservation Day events at Monmouth County Archives on April 27th. Included is a lecture by Gary on preserving family photographs and free scanning of up to three photos. October events for Archives Week will center on transportation in Monmouth County.

Carolyn reported on upcoming exhibits and lectures at the Morristown and Morris Township Library. The exhibit, "Gardens and Grounds by Three North New Jersey Landscape Designers," will open on April 4th, and be accompanied by two lectures. The library is also hosting a lecture series on preserving historical and natural places from April through July. Genealogy events at the library include two speakers on African-American genealogy and a one-day scanning workshop in March.

As part of Newark's 350th anniversary, Tom discussed a speaker's series of notable Newarkers, including Sharp James, Kenneth Gibson, and Savion Glover, recounting their Newark stories. The library is also opening a black history exhibit in February, called "We Found Our Way: Newark Portraits from the Great Migration". Recent department activities included forming a digitization work group.

John is seeking judges for this year's New Jersey History Day competition. Renovations at Jersey City Free Public Library continue, and the New Jersey Room will not be open for the remainder of 2016.

Colleen is involved with a digitization committee at Ocean County Library, which will support their local history efforts. The library is also exhibiting its collection on Nathaniel Holmes Bishop, who was an author and library philanthropist.

Laura announced an upcoming speaker's series on black history at Trenton Free Public Library. From Horizons Speakers Bureau, topics include the history of the Negro Baseball League and the Associated Negro Press, as well as the life of hair care and cosmetics entrepreneur, Madame C J Walker.

Karl provided the latest with the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR). The network is holding its annual membership meeting on March 22nd at Ocean County Library in Toms River. Karl will speak on NJCAR's GIS mapping pilot project, while Tom Claeson of LYRASIS will discuss new resources for alliance response communities.

Jessica continues working with indexing the photographs at the Bloomfield Historical Society. She is now at the inventory stage, and has found photos dating back to the 1890s.

Bruce is reorganizing the Local History Room at Paterson Free Public Library.

Deb attended the NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ Archives & Special Collections Committee meeting held at the NJ State Archives as an H&P representative. They discussed developing more co-sponsored activities.

Adjournment

Without objections, the meeting was adjourned 11:33 AM.

Tour of Trentoniana

After the meeting, Laura guided us on a tour of local history and genealogy collections in the Trentoniana Room.

Thanks to Laura for generously hosting us!

Submitted by Ken Kaufman, 5 May 2016.