

The Chronicle



The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

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2024-2025 H&P Section Executive Board

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If possible, please include images with captions/attribution.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Juber Ayala, Section President

Hello History and Preservation Section,

It has been a very busy and fruitful past couple of weeks!

The History and Preservation Section had its first general meeting for the year virtually in October. We are currently making plans for our Winter and Spring general meetings. When we have the dates and locations for these meetings, we'll share them with all the members. We'll be aiming for meetings in January and April 2025.

We also had two Professional Development workshops at the East Jersey Old Town Village in October. Thank you to Kim Adams for planning and securing funding for the workshops. Kim secured an NJLA mini grant for these workshops! The workshops were co-sponsored by the NJLA Professional Development Committee, the New Brunswick Free Public Library Archive, and the Arts Institute of Middlesex County. The first workshop was presented by Dyani Feigi of the CCAHA and she discussed good and better approaches to preservation for those with limited budgets and skills. During the second workshop, Tara Maharjan of the NJ State Archives provided an overview on how to process and make archival collections easier to work with. I am sure attendees learned a lot from these insightful programs.

The H&P Section also hosted an information table at the Monmouth County Archives and History Day at Brookdale Community College. Thank you to John Beekman for hosting the table. During the Awards Ceremony, Gary Saretzky presented Tim Corlis with the prestigious Roger McDonough Award. Congratulations to Tim on his well deserved recognition!

The Programming Committee is planning panel sessions for the upcoming 2025 NJLA Conference. We have some program ideas that

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we'll workshop into proposals. If you have any ideas and would like to help out, please feel free to reach out to myself or committee chair Jacqueline Silver-Morillo. Thank you to Jacqueline for her efforts in leading the conference programming planning.

As we are approaching the end of 2024, I'm looking forward to an eventful 2025 with more archival tours and meetings. I look forward to sharing those details with you all in the upcoming weeks.

Juber Ayala, NJ Hispanic Research & Information Center, Newark Public Library

H&P President

ARCHIVES & HISTORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Submitted By Frederic C. Pachman, AHIP

Chair, Archives & History Committee

The NJLA Executive Board was apprised of the 2020 memorandum of understanding with the New Jersey State Library to store the NJLA Archives at the Talking Book and Braille Center. The original three-year term was set to expire in October 2023. Due to a provision in the memorandum that automatically renews the agreement, the Executive Board decided that they would not take up this issue.

As part of the Dag Bulman Bequest, the NJLA Executive Board has approved the expenditure of \$80,000 'to provide access to funding committed to organizing and preserving NJLA's print archives and its history'. The committee is planning how to proceed with a multi-year expenditure to begin processing, organization, and preservation of the Association's Archives that document our 130+ year history. Members are drafting a job description and explanatory cover memo for a project archivist.

Brett Bonfield reported that the previous Executive Director had arranged for digitization of documents by Innovative Document Imaging. There are seventeen (17) boxes of the paper records currently stored at the NJLA office. The Committee has requested information on the types of documents, record groups, and plans for disposition of the materials.

The Committee scheduled two survey sessions at the Talking Book and Braille Center in West Trenton on February 21 and April 2. Significant items were retrieved for digitization, security of the collection was reviewed, priorities for processing were discussed, every drawer of the filing cabinets was photographed, and information was collected on the record groups and significant contents. An initial finding aid is currently being drafted.

The Chair collected folders on the history of the Archives and has merged documents from the personal collections of Elsalyn Palmisano and himself to document the history of the NJLA Archives Committee. There are two envelopes holding original papers and photocopies: March 1927 – 1979 and July 1984 – October 2020. These materials have been digitized and shared with the Committee.

The 2024 conference featured a Joint program by the Committee and the History & Preservation Section, "Digging for Treasure in the NJLA Archives" on Friday May 31. An introduction by Fred Pachman featured some 'treasures' discovered during surveys of the NJLA Archives, Laura Poll showed NJLA artifacts and asked Librarians to check their 'home collections', and Teresa Bayles presented video and audio pieces that had been digitized

from the files. If you'd like to take an enjoyable break and learn more about your Association's history, link to: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1no4bOLqEzE4PNfekTEH2omexJKdnMVMim1o5nECfXPmg/>

With great appreciation for their participation and professional skills, I wish to thank members of the Committee; Elsaly Palmisano, Beth Zak-Cohen, Jessica Trujillo, Kate Jagers, Laura Poll, Richard Kearney, Sarah Hull, Teresa Bayles, Claire Thomas, Eric Schwarz, Dave Williams, Christine Szeluga, Bob Stewart.

2024 ROGER MCDONOUGH AWARD WINNER

Submitted By Gary Saretzky



Gary Saretzky, Tim Corlis, County Clerk Christine Hanlon

Photo Credit: Fred Pachman

Timothy S. Corlis, 2024 Roger McDonough Award Winner

Tim Corlis worked in libraries in New Jersey for more than 40 years. Beginning in the early 2000s, he emerged as a leader in the preservation of library materials in the state. After obtaining his B.A. in 1981, he served in several

staff positions at Alexander Library, Rutgers University, where he had worked as an undergraduate. In 1982, he was a processor for the papers of Senator Harrison Williams. From 1986 to 1990, Tim helped preserve the state's newspapers for the New Jersey Newspaper Microfilming Project, first at Alexander Library and then at the Division of Archives and Records Management, State of New Jersey. During part of this time, he was chief newspaper cataloger. His report on the U.S. Newspaper Project, of which New Jersey was a part, was published in the *NJLA Preservation Section Newsletter* in Summer 1988 and *Conservation Administration News* in October 1988. During this time, Tim was also working on obtaining his M.L.S., which he was awarded in 1991.

Beginning in 1990, Tim spent about ten years at the ETS Archives at the Carl Campbell Brigham Library. Among his accomplishments there, he was co-author with ETS Archivist Gary Saretzky of the *ETS Records Management Manual* (1991, rev. 1993). After Saretzky's departure, Tim had principal responsibility for the ETS Archives from 1993 to 2000. His wide ranging responsibilities included preservation and microfilming projects for the voluminous records of the nonprofit organization with more than 2,000 employees. He also conducted oral history interviews with key executives and wrote the entry on ETS for *The Encyclopedia of New Jersey* (2004).

While at ETS, Tim became an active member of the Princeton Preservation Group (PPG), founded by the inspirational Susan Swartzburg and which met regularly at ETS during this period. Susan and Tim worked together on PPG meeting arrangements until Susan's untimely death in 1996. In 1998, Tim became Vice President of PPG and continues in that position today. In this role, he has organized numerous workshops and lectures on preservation topics for the organization, first at ETS and then at Rutgers after he rejoined the university in 2000 as Labor Archivist for the voluminous records of the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers (IUE). His responsibilities for the IUE collection included preservation planning and treatments. In 2001, Tim received a Certificate for completing the rigorous Preservation Management Institute at Rutgers, which helped qualify him for obtaining his next position of Head of Preservation, Special Collection and University Archives, in 2003, from which he retired a few years ago.

As Head of Preservation, Tim was responsible for preservation planning, treatments, preventive conservation, and support for the exhibition program for which he and his staff prepared mounts for books and other exhibit items. A meticulous craftsman, Tim became one of New Jersey's foremost designers of custom-made book display mounts and shared his expertise with others around the state, including at presentations and meetings of the New Jersey Library Association/History and Preservation Section in June and December 2013. Most recently, he gave an excellent presentation on preservation of local history collections at the NJLA Annual Conference in May 2023. Tim is also an expert in disaster recovery at libraries and spearheaded the recovery efforts from two significant floods caused by sprinkler malfunctions at Special Collections and then designed the department's new fire suppression system. Among other accomplishments, Tim became a specialist in map conservation, serving as project director for grant funded projects at Special Collections and University Archives, funded by IMLS and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Tim became active as a preservation of library materials educator beginning in 2003, as a lecturer in the archives and preservation courses at the Rutgers graduate library school. He has also mentored numerous conservation technicians and interns in the Conservation Lab at Special Collections. His interns have included Rutgers Public History Interns who have gone on to careers in archives, conservation, and library work, including Erin Cral and Valerie Addonizio.

Tim has been active in professional organizations in the library, archives, and conservation fields, including AIC, NJLA, and MARAC, for which he has played a leadership role in four different committees. Through his professional contacts and job responsibilities, Tim has become widely known for his expertise and enthusiasm for library and preservation work. His expertise in, and devotion to, library work is a model for others to follow and made him highly qualified for the Roger McDonough Award.

RESEARCH LEADS TO 25 NAMES ADDED TO MEMORIAL WALL AT NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Submitted By Eric Schwarz, Research Librarian,

New Jersey Department of Transportation

This past year, I continued research begun in 2023 to find the names of New Jersey state highway workers who gave their lives on the job but whose names had not been known. This research led to adding the names of 25 of these workers to a memorial wall at the headquarters of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in Ewing and their recognition, for the first time, at the NJDOT's Annual Remembrance Ceremony, held Sept. 11, 2024. Their names are included in the [printed program from the ceremony](#).

Last year I found the names of five previously unknown workers who had been killed on the job in the 1940s. Their names were reported in *The Highway*, a newsletter for employees of the New Jersey State Highway Department, as the NJDOT was known before 1966. In July, I was honored to receive an [Innovation Award](#) from the Transportation Community of the Special Libraries Association (SLA), recognizing the research in 2023.

Excited by those finds last year, I researched from September 2023 through July 2024 to find the names of additional people who should be honored for giving their lives as workers for the New Jersey highway or transportation departments. I ran hundreds of searches in newspaper databases, the [NJDOT's collection in the Internet Archive](#), FindaGrave.com, and other online sources. I also visited the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton several times to gather evidence from death certificates and other sources. The New Jersey State Registrar's Office, part of the Department of Health, also provided vital records.

I thought I would find a few more names. With the assistance and review of NJDOT's Employee Memorial Committee, we determined that 25 men found in these searches qualified as having given their lives in the line of duty. These names were added to the wall on Sept. 11 on two temporary plaques, which eventually will be replaced by permanent plaques. These men died on various dates from 1922 to 1965, with two of them killed in the same accident in 1940. Most of the men were killed while conducting work on highways. With the five names added in 2023 and the 25 added in 2024, the NJDOT's employee memorial now honors 66 men.

Each person has his own story. At the 2024 remembrance ceremony ([video](#)), I highlighted two of these men whose sacrifices saved the lives of others.



Eric Schwarz speaks at the Annual Remembrance Ceremony of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) on Sept. 11, 2024.

Photo Credit: Nicholas Whartenby, Office of Communications, New Jersey Department of Transportation



Eric Schwarz with SLA Transportation Community 2024 Innovation Award. Photo taken July 9, 2024, at the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Employee Memorial.

Photo Credit: Glenn Catana, Office of Communications, New Jersey Department of Transportation

In 1922, [Harry Becker](#) was tending a bridge at Westville, when he hurled himself in front of a team of runaway horses. He did this to save several children who were in harm's way. He was trampled but the children were saved.

[Byron Broadwater](#) also made the ultimate sacrifice by saving the lives of his fellow workmen. During a thunderstorm in 1933, he directed the crew to seek shelter at his own home in Millville. Even after they sheltered in his garage, a bolt of lightning struck and hurled three men to the floor. The two others regained their feet, but Broadwater was killed.

This research was as comprehensive as possible, but other names could be found with additional research.

[Francis O'Connor, New Jersey's Transportation Commissioner, gave the keynote address](#) at the 2024 remembrance ceremony.

"The 66 fallen New Jersey DOT employees were dedicated public servants, committed to building and maintaining the transportation infrastructure that connects our Garden State to one another and to communities beyond our state lines. They lost their lives while doing their jobs – while serving the people of New Jersey," O'Connor said. "We owe them an immense debt of gratitude."

MIGRATING TO PISCATAWAY: STORIES OLD AND NEW WITH LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION MATERIALS

Submitted By Ruby Constantino, Piscataway Public Library

This fall Piscataway Public Library displayed historical materials that documented aspects of migration into Piscataway from the Local History Collection in conjunction with a visiting exhibit, *World on the Move: 250,000 Years of Human Migration*, and a co-presented community exhibit *Journey to Piscataway*. The exhibit was shown in two flat display cases at Kennedy Library.



Display case featuring books and newspaper clippings

Photo credit: Ruby Constantino



Display case featuring oral history transcripts, cassette tapes, QR codes, and photos

Photo credit: Ruby Constantino

One highlight of the exhibit was a book titled *First Settlers of Ye Plantations of Piscataway and Woodbridge 1664-1714: A Period of Fifty Years* (1930). This was the second volume of seven written by banker and genealogist Orra Eugene Monnette. This book details the genealogy of several prominent founding families of Piscataway, including the Hull family. Originally from Devonshire, England, Captain Benjamin Hull, Hopewell Hull, and Samuel Hull migrated in 1664-1666 and became the first European settlers of Piscataway and Woodbridge. Their families were prominent in the early history of new settlements, 1664-1714. On display atop the book was the Hull coat of arms.

Another highlight was a newspaper clipping of the article “Walter Christian Meuly, 87, Noted Chemist, Philanthropist” (1987). This obituary memorializes Walter Meuly, who died in 1987. Meuly was born in Switzerland just before the beginning of the 20th century and immigrated to America in 1923. He moved to Piscataway in 1935. Meuly was a noted chemist, public historian, naturalist, and active Piscataway community resident who extensively documented the town’s history. He and his wife Julia purchased and lived in the historical Isaac Onderdonk House on River Road in 1939.

In 1976, the Piscataway Bicentennial Committee published Meuly's book *History of Piscataway Township 1666-1976*. Published in honor of the nation's 200th anniversary, this book traces Piscataway's progress from a closely-knit English-Dutch farming community to a suburban township on its way to becoming a city. The book includes many pictures of historical buildings and houses, most of which were owned by prominent immigrant families. This book was also featured in the exhibit.

Also on display were four transcripts and cassette tapes from the Piscataway Bicentennial Committee Oral Histories (1975-1976). These oral histories were recorded and transcribed by the Bicentennial Committee and later digitized by Library staff. The migration stories of community members John R. Hadley, Dick Bakker, Helen Kotter, and Doris Havran were on display.

In 1907, Hadley's family migrated from the coal mines of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to the Isaac Dayton farm in Piscataway. Bakker's family came to the Bound Brook Heights section in 1911. In 1918, Kotter's family migrated to Ferrer Colony. Havran's family migrated to Irishtown, an area of Piscataway founded by Irish and Scottish settlers, from the Bronx circa 1930. The QR codes were provided to give visitors the unique experience of hearing these oral histories in the voices of their storytellers.

This exhibit supported the Library's mission by bringing the community closer to its history, educating and engaging residents, and emphasizing the collection's role as a vital resource for preserving and sharing local historical information while acknowledging Piscataway's rich history of migration.

NJHRIC LATINO CELEBRATION RECAP

Submitted By Juber Ayala, NJ Hispanic Research & Information Center,
Newark Public Library

The New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center had an incredibly memorable and successful 2024 Latino Celebration.



NJHRIC receiving a Ceremonial Proclamation at the Senate Chambers

Photo Courtesy of the NJ Hispanic Research & Information Center

The NJHRIC commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Puerto Rican Rebellion in Newark with an exhibit and series of free public programming. The exhibition, *Newark '74: From Rebellion To Excellence*, snapshots Newark's Puerto Rican community of the 1950-1990s, while commemorating the agony of a blemished cultural festival in Branch Brook Park and acknowledging the rise of Puerto Rican and Latino political power through community excellence. Also featured in the exhibition is a selection of original prints by Afro-Puerto Rican painter, graphic artist, sculptor, and community activist, Samuel Lind and a collection of authentic vejigante masks.

The exhibit's opening reception featured a panel discussion with two eyewitnesses: William Q. Sánchez and Felipe Chavana, Esq.; archivist Juber Ayala, and moderator Judge Myrna Milan. William Sánchez shared his experiences growing up in Newark and witnessing the shocking events. Felipe Chavana shared his experiences interviewing eyewitnesses immediately after the Rebellion. Some audience members later shared emotional testimonies about never forgetting the Rebellion as a turning point for the Puerto Rican community to become politically visible in the city.

The NJHRIC also participated in a Latinx Heritage Tour with local community organizations La Casa de Don Pedro, ASPIRA and FOCUS. The walking tour started at the Library and participants then walked to the other community organizations, listening to audio clips on each of the organization's history and positive impact on the community. The walking tour ended at Branch Brook Park with a family festival.

The Library's public programming series ended with Mini-Documentary Screening & Reception honoring The Life and Legacy of Local Latino Pioneer Miguel "Don Mike" Rodriguez. Miguel "Don Mike" Rodriguez, is a community and political leader who epitomizes the excellence that rose from the ashes of Newark's Puerto Rican Rebellion of 1974. The community was able to take photographs with Don Mike, hear a panel discussion on his contributions to the Latino community, and view the mini documentary. Guests were also able to tour the exhibit with archival assistant and co-curator Fabian Paredes.

This year's Latino Celebration also included other festivities for the NJHRIC. The Newark Public Library participated in the Statewide Puerto Rican Parade in Newark by having a float hosted with Library staff. It was the first time the Library has had a float in the parade! The NJHRIC received a prestigious Ceremonial Resolution from the NJ Legislature. It was a great honor to be recognized by the state legislature and the NJ Latino Caucus. During the ceremony, Senator M. Teresa Ruiz reinforced the importance of including more Latino history in textbooks for students to learn about their roots. NJHRIC archivist Juber Ayala attended a Hispanic Heritage event at the Governor's Residence at the end of September. It was an incredible experience to visit the Senate Chamber and Governor's residence in the same month!



2024 Puerto Rican Day Parade

Photos Courtesy of the NJ Hispanic Research & Information Center

Lastly, the NJHRIC co-curators of the exhibit, Yesenia López, Juber Ayala and Fabian Paredes were interviewed by journalist Alan Villafaña of Telemundo. They shared their experiences on selecting materials to include in the exhibit. The exhibit has gotten a lot of attention from the community who craves to learn more about this event. We look forward to seeing the final interview on television.

BOUND BROOK LIBRARY DIGITIZATION PROJECTS

Submitted By Aaron Pickett and Alyssa Titus,

Somerset County Library System

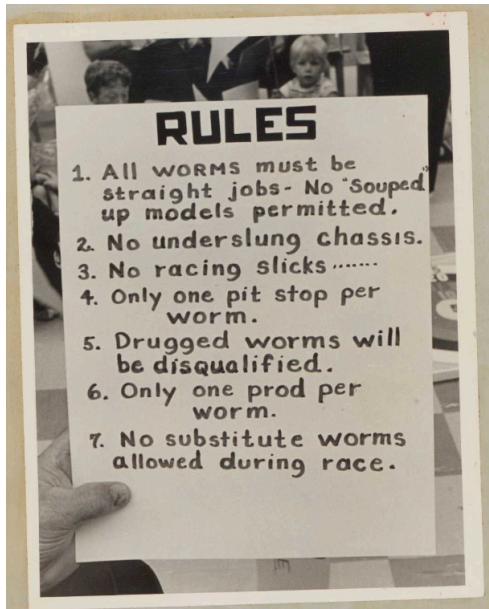
The Bound Brook Memorial Library (now the Bound Brook Branch of the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey, or SCLSNJ) celebrated its 100th year in its current location in June 2024. Unfortunately, branch staff were not able to celebrate the occasion as the branch has been closed since October 2023 due to asbestos being found throughout the building. As we were leaving the building, unsure when we might reopen, we decided to take some unique items from our archives. Our plan was to use the time that we were closed to make progress on several long-gestating digitization projects to provide our patrons a virtual connection to the library.

To aid our digitization efforts, we were fortunate to have access to the [Digital Lab](#) at the Montgomery Branch of SCLSNJ. This digital preservation lab includes equipment to digitize a wide format of physical materials, including photographs, slides, VHS tapes, cassettes, vinyl records, 8mm film, and even old floppy discs. 3D items can even be digitized through photography using the Fotodiox Portable Studio. The Digital Lab is free to use but is only available by reservation. Somerset County Library card holders (and [library staff across the state](#)) are entitled to a SCLSNJ card and can reserve the space themselves. Non card holders can contact library staff for help making a reservation.

Our first digitization project was to scan the four collections of over 450 postcards held by the library. Staff member Alyssa Titus scanned each postcard individually, and then she and two other staff members added metadata to aid patrons in searching this collection. SCLSNJ Technical Services staff then uploaded these [postcard images](#), along with their metadata, to our platform that hosts our local history collections, [Biblioboard](#).

After completing this first project, we decided to digitize some of the most interesting items in our archives: 37 scrapbooks that document library and community history from 1897 through 2006, when Bound Brook Library joined the Somerset County Library System. These scrapbooks were assembled by library staff over the years and include photographs, flyers, brochures, newspaper articles, and all manners of other items glued, taped, or paperclipped to the pages. Digitizing these books proved challenging as some of the unfolded news articles exceeded the size of the large format overhead scanner (a Zeutschel Omniscan) but Alyssa found creative solutions for whatever she encountered. Users can search for text found among the news articles and flyers when using this collection because our scanner supported OCR (optical character recognition). Our full scrapbook collection is now [online](#) and available for the public to explore.

This project has opened the windows to over one hundred years of Bound Brook library history, even while our physical doors remain shut. Found in these scrapbooks are not only delightful examples of past library programs - worm races! pet fashion shows! a librarian's pet otter who opened a banking account! a baby chimpanzee riding a baby elephant parading in the stacks in the children's department! - but also evidence that the library has always prioritized serving the community.



Worm Race, 1970



A 1970 article recounts the creation of a bookmobile even though the town is only 1.7 square miles. The article notes, however, that in addition to bringing library materials closer to patrons, it was staffed by volunteers fluent in Spanish, Polish, and Italian to better serve our multilingual population.

Book Mobile, Bound Brook Chronicle article, 1970

Su Biblioteca Memorial

por Elizabeth Griesbach

The following article is addressed to the Spanish speaking people of Bound Brook. In it I have tried to explain some of the services we have at the Memorial Library and also to include something about the small collection of Spanish language books we have. In writing this article, I would like to thank Father Sergio of St. Joseph's Church for his assistance.

Aquí en su biblioteca, tenemos una pequeña colección de libros y folletos en la lengua española.

Para su lectura recreativa hay novelas recientes como **El padrino** por Mario Puzo, **El premio nobel** por Irving Wallace, y algunos misterios por Agatha Christie. Además, hay muchos libros de ficción popular.

Tenemos libros sobre la hechicería como **Hablamos con los espíritus**, **El moderno manual de magia y hechicería**, y **Haga su propio hechizo**.

Para los gastronomos hay libros de cocina. **Le receta cocina** es especialmente útil para la persona que no tiene mucho tiempo para preparar las comidas.

Si usted tiene hijos, hay guías de puericultura como **Tu hijo** por el doctor Spock. También hay una enciclopedia médica para toda la familia. Tenemos **La dieta médica de reducción rápida** por el doctor Irwin Stillman y un libro titulado **Todo lo que usted necesita saber sobre el embarazo y el aborto**.

Para los decoradores hay títulos, como **La casa y tu**, que abarca capítulos como la casa y los muebles, las paredes, el suelo, elementos decorativos, plantas y flores, la navidad en casa y comida improvisada. **Arreglos caseros** explica la limpieza y conservación de las paredes, puertas, muebles, suelos, etc. Discute las herramientas necesarias, las averías eléctricas, la pintura, y otras técnicas del arreglo de la casa.

Hay un libro de plomería y un llamado **Reparelo usted mismo**. Este tiene procedimientos paso a paso para reparar los utensilios en toda la casa. Tam-

En nuestra colección de literatura en español tenemos títulos como **El sombrero de tres picos**, **Lazarillo de tormes**, **Dona Perfecta**, y **Los hombres de la tierra prometida** por Claude Brown. Sobre la lengua española misma hay libros de gramática, conversación y composición.

Para ustedes, quienes son viajeros, **Ciudades excitantes** por Ian Fleming; es un libro muy interesante. Siendo el mismo un viajero de mundo, el señor Fleming nos lleva en un viaje a algunas de las ciudades principales del mundo como Hong Kong, Nueva York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Berlin, Napoles, Honolulu y otras.

Hay información corriente para el consumidor, en nuestra colección de folletos. Aquí se puede encontrar información para comprar un automóvil, para comprar y preparar varias comidas económicamente, información sobre las drogas, la salud, el cuidado prenatal, sus derechos, y las estampillas para alimentos.

El piso bajo de la biblioteca es el cuarto para los niños. Aquí tenemos cuentos, misterios y poemas en español. También hay libros del lenguaje básico español.

Además de la colección de libros, su biblioteca tiene muchos servicios gratis. Si nosotros no tenemos el título que busca, podemos obtenerlo de otra biblioteca. Para los que buscan trabajo, tenemos anuncios de oportunidades en el servicio civil de Nueva Jersey. Hay libros que describen como preparar un resumen.

Tenemos una serie de manuales Chilton de reparación automotiva.

Todos los residentes de Bound Brook pueden tomar a préstamo los libros, los folletos, los discos, las revistas, y aun películas de ocho milímetros. Si no acaba por la fecha vencida, el material que ha tomado a préstamo, puede extenderlo por teléfono o viniendo a la biblioteca.

Es muy importante recordar que los servicios de su biblioteca son gratis. Los impuestos que usted paga le dan derecho a una tarjeta gratis de la bib-

Another article, from 1977, was “addressed to the Spanish speaking people of Bound Brook” and was written entirely in Spanish detailing the collections, programs, and services offered by the library and serving as an early example of a library using bilingual marketing in the local newspaper.

Article about Bound Brook Library

Photo Credit: Bound Brook Chronicle, 1977

This project helped surface the surprising past of the library and can inspire our future efforts. Notably, this spurred us to resume the practice of creating scrapbooks that document the activities of our branch. We created the first new scrapbook since 2006 utilizing photos and program information that covered the years 2021-2024 and are currently working on another one documenting our outreach efforts during the closure of our building. Our next large scale digitization project will be copies of the Bound Brook High School *Echo* yearbook, of which we have copies dating back to 1926. We welcome everyone to browse our digital collection of [scrapbooks](#) and [postcards](#) online to become inspired by the past and to inspire new ideas about the future.



Sign announcing that the library would be closed in honor of the moon landing in 1969

JOURNEY TO PISCATAWAY

Submitted by Susan Clarkin Vignuolo, Piscataway Public Library

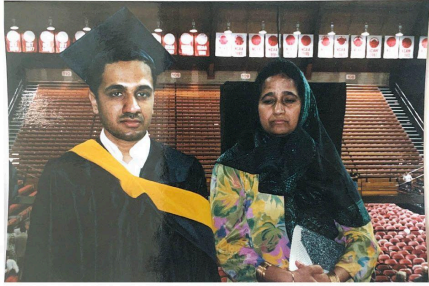
Piscataway Public Library was honored to display the traveling exhibit, *World On The Move: 250,000 Years of Human Migration*, from September 28 to November 5, 2024. Sponsored by the American Library Association, the American Anthropological Association, and the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the showcase explored the fundamental questions surrounding why, where, and how people have relocated—historically and in the present day. Piscataway was one of only fifteen libraries nationwide to be chosen to host.

From the earliest planning phases, our team knew we wanted to incorporate a component featuring local experiences. As one of the library's ongoing goals is to enrich our local history collection with items more reflective of its community, we came up with the idea of Journey to Piscataway. We invited residents to submit the stories of how they came to live in Piscataway, along with photographs of their homes and families. The response was robust, enthusiastic, and diverse! We received 25 entries in all: the authors were teenagers and senior citizens; the newly-arrived and those born and raised in town; families who came from within New Jersey and those who crossed an ocean to get here. The narratives chronicled unique journeys but revealed overlapping themes—people moved here for education, jobs, family, love, religious community, and fresh starts.

In collaboration with our contributors, each story was edited for length and clarity, and the correspondence often yielded additional rich details. A graphic designer laid out each essay with its corresponding photographs and they were printed on foam core panels measuring an average of 18x20 inches. The collection is currently on view in the lobby of Kennedy Library, where it will remain until early December of this year.

Our Journey to Piscataway participants were recognized at a reception on Sunday, October 27. The event featured live music, refreshments, and remarks offered by Mayor Brian Wahler. Our proud authors had the opportunity to meet one another, have their pictures taken with their panels, and celebrate their contributions with family, friends, and their fellow Piscataway residents.

Here are some photographs submitted by our authors that were included in their panels (all photos used with permission by the author):



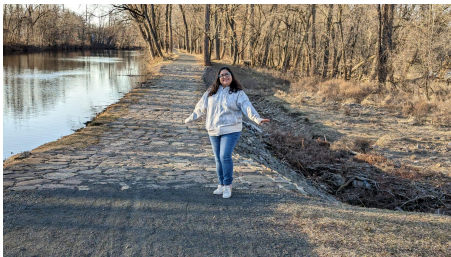
Amin Abdulghani and Shabina Arshad, Rutgers Commencement



The Mason-Robinson Family at home, Piscataway, NJ



Betty Miele represents the Circle M Ranch in Piscataway's Bicentennial Parade



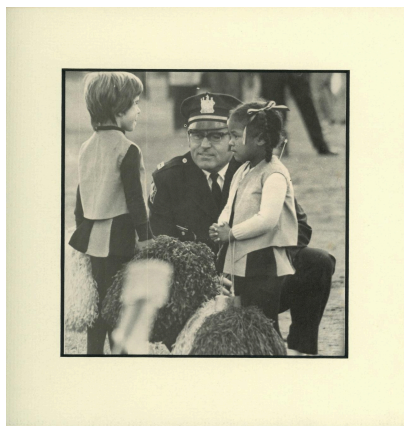
Pamela Quijada, Canal State Park Trail near River Road, Piscataway, NJ



Nalini Shankar at home, Piscataway, NJ



Alyce, Jimmy, Maureen and Jayne Clarkin at home, Piscataway, NJ




Police Chief Henry Knabe, Piscataway High School football game

EVENTS

ATLANTIC CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Jacqueline Silver-Morillo, Atlantic City Free Public Library



**AC
RESEARCH CLUB**

♣ A CLUB FOR HISTORY BUFFS IN ATLANTIC CITY AND BEYOND!

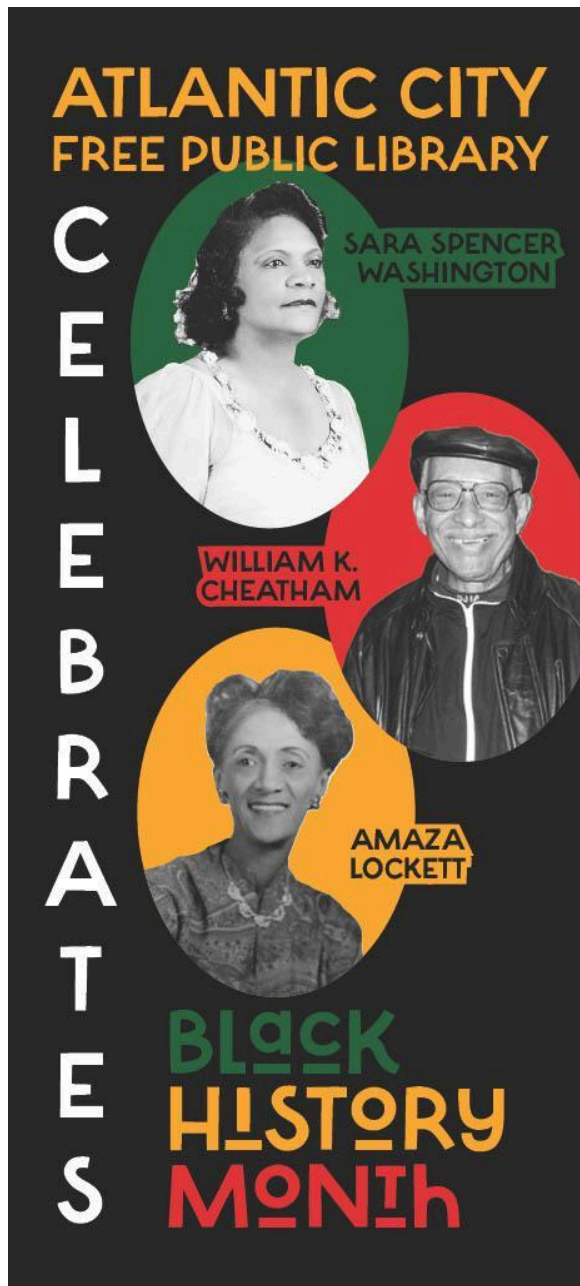
TOPICS INCLUDE:
Genealogy, exploring the library archives, AC history and more.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & TIME:
Fridays from 2-4 p.m.
Dec. 20, 2024, Jan. 10, 2025, and Feb. 7, 2025

LOCATION:
Atlantic City Library, AC Heritage Research Room

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
Email jmorillo@acfpl.org, call (609) 345-2269, ext. 3066,
or sign up online (visit the Programs page at www.acfpl.org)

AC History Fun Fact(s) on Friday every week on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/acheritagecollectionsarchive>) and Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/acheritagecollections/>). It is a history fact about Atlantic City exploring our people, institutions, neighborhoods, pretty much anything AC History related.



Starting February 1st, the exterior of the Atlantic City Free Public Library will feature a Black History Month banner, measuring 10 feet wide by 22.5 feet high. The banner highlights three prominent African Americans in Atlantic City history: Sara Spencer Washington, William K. Cheatham and Dr. Amaza Lockett. Inside the library, there will be 20 posters on display with photos and text of local African-American individuals or organizations that have impacted Atlantic City. For those who want to look for all 20 posters, stop by the Help Desk for a checklist. The library will also have posters at its Richmond Branch (4115 Ventnor Ave.). The poster photos and text are from the library's Atlantic City Heritage Collections.

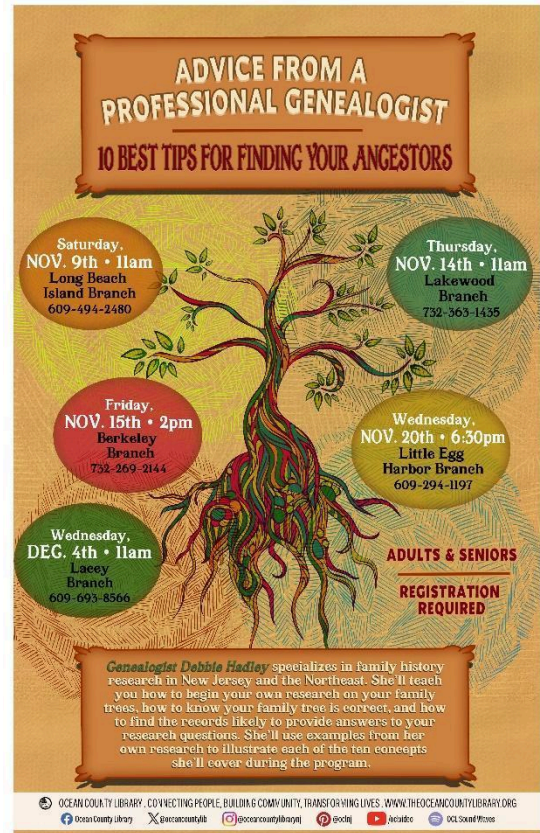
OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Submitted by Colleen Goode, Ocean County Library System

Advice from a Professional Genealogist: 10 Best Tips for Finding Your Ancestors

[December 4, 2024](#), 11:00 am, Lacey Branch

Genealogist Debbie Hadley specializes in family history research in New Jersey and the Northeast. She will teach you how to begin your own research on your family trees, how to know if your family tree is correct, and how to find records likely to provide answers to your research questions. She will use examples from her own research to illustrate each of the ten concepts she will cover during the program.



Meet the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music

December 5, 2024, 3:30 pm, Lacey Branch

The Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music (BSACAM) at Monmouth University preserves the legacy of Bruce Springsteen and celebrates the history of American music and its diversity of artists and genres. The collection holds close to 50,000 items dating from 1927 to the present. Monmouth University recently announced a new 30,000 square foot building to house the Archives, related exhibition galleries, and a 230 seat, state-of-the-art theater. Join BSACAM Curator Melissa Ziobro for an overview of the collection's history, programs and exhibition efforts to date, and an inside look at ongoing efforts to stage a major traveling exhibit while planning for a museum opening in 2026. Please register. Program sponsored by the Friends of the Lacey Library.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.libnet.info/event/11924113>

The Hindenburg Experience

December 11, 2024, 6:00 pm, Lakewood Branch

Presenter Bill Schmidt will take you on an historical journey of the last flight of the Hindenburg which tragically burned on May 6, 1937, at NAS Lakehurst, Manchester Township, New Jersey. Experience the last flight of the Hindenburg from Frankfurt Germany to Lakehurst, NJ in 1937. At 803.8 feet in length and 135.1 feet in diameter, the German passenger airship Hindenburg (LZ-129) was the largest aircraft ever to fly. The commercial flights of Hindenburg, along with Graf Zeppelin, pioneered the first transatlantic air service. She carried hundreds of passengers and traveled thousands of miles before the airship caught fire during landing.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.libnet.info/event/11921282>

Floriography: The Victorian Language of Flowers

December 18, 2024, 2:30 pm, Stafford Branch

Back in the late 1800s, directly expressing your feelings was frowned upon. So, what did those straight-laced Victorians do? They developed a “language” of combining flowers to let that special someone know how they were feeling...whether it was love, compassion, jealousy, or even “I can’t stand the very thought of you!” Learn to use flowers to express your emotions with this fun and informative presentation. Presented by a Cattus Island County Park Naturalist. Please register.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.libnet.info/event/11980444>

The History of Auschwitz: An 80th Anniversary Presentation

January 28, 2025, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Brick Branch

Join us as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the largest Nazi concentration camp, with a powerful and reflective exploration of the camp's history. Presented by Brianna Doherty and Allison Connolly from the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.libnet.info/event/11849403>

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library

George & Martha Washington: A Love Story
Presented by Curt Radabaugh and Alisa Dupuy
Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Noon
Anne Louise Davis Room

Today, we often see America's first "First Couple" as very old people, in stodgy portraits. However, at the start of the American Revolution, they were in their 40s, a vibrant couple in middle age. They lived and loved and had their joys as well as their trials. George and Martha had a strong and loving relationship; their marriage lasted over 40 years. During the war, Martha joined him every winter in camp so that they could be together, and so that she could provide the support and warmth he needed to maintain his morale. Observers of the couple noted that she "was mad about him", they were "excessive fond of one another" and that their relationship was "one of tenderness and respect".

This presentation seeks to educate people about this important couple as well as the people who surrounded them and helped them achieve all that they did. Hear from them about how they met, about their marriage, their families, their responsibilities and, of course, about their love. It is educational, emotional and romantic.

RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Sarah Kiefer, Ridgewood Public Library

Event: Explore the Hidden Archive

Dates/Times: Monday February 3 at 7pm OR Thursday February 13 at 11am (*please choose 1 tour)

Description: Take a backstage tour of the Ridgewood Public Library's hidden gems with Local History Librarian Sarah Kiefer. In this rare opportunity you'll get a glimpse at what the Bolger Heritage Center has to offer. Uncover the historic artifacts and materials we have in the archive relating to not only the Library's history, but also all of the Village of Ridgewood.

Registration required: www.ridgewoodlibrary.org

PRINCETON PRESERVATION GROUP

Submitted by Gary Saretzky, Princeton Preservation Group



Laura Wahl, Library Conservator

Laura Wahl has been the Library Conservator at Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware since 2008. There she works to preserve a wide range of library and archival materials documenting the history of business and technology. Prior to Hagley she worked as a Conservator and Fellow at the Conservation Center for Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. She graduated from the University of Delaware/Winterthur Program in Art Conservation where she majored in Photograph Conservation. Laura also has a BFA in Visual Communication/Photographic Illustration from Ohio University. Laura has recently been researching gelatin DOP photographic papers of the 1890s in the context of photographs by William H. Rau in the Hagley Library.

Event: Preserving Plastic Handles at the Hagley Museum & Library

December 2, 2024, 7pm

Zoom registration link:

<https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qdu6ppzwpGdK7MzKzM975Itbbq2aNhpiS>

This talk will introduce the ongoing project of preserving a series of prototype models of plastic handles for consumer products created by designer Thomas Lamb. The items are components of a broader archival collection at Hagley Museum and Library, frequently accessed by researchers interested in mid 20th century design, accessibility, and ergonomics. A conservation survey at the Library in 2023 attempted to identify plastic objects using dating, visual characteristics, and odor to classify the polymer by feeding the data into an online plastics analysis tool. This method helped to narrow down the likely suspects, but often it was far from conclusive. There were concerns about the degradation materials (off gassing) and the possible impact on adjacent metals and other plastics. A more precise materials identification was desired. Object conservators were consulted, and some concepts for preventive storage were considered. In the spring of 2024, under the direction of Dr. Liora Mael, a group of undergraduate University of Delaware Art Conservation students performed FTIR analysis at Winterthur's SRAL on some of the unknown plastic materials. The students worked as a team to document each handle and to organize the analytical work flow. Some of the identities were surprising. This is likely due to the experimental nature of some materials in the Lamb collection, being examples along a continuum of the design process, rather than final products. The information generated by the students will soon be used to help improve storage and preservation of the collection.

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Submitted by Ken Kaufman, Somerset County Library System

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Overturning Every Stone to Break Through Your Brick Wall

Thursday, January 23rd, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11410755>

Whether due to a courthouse fire, natural disaster or late records collection date; each of us has that one ancestor, place or era where the records remain steadfastly elusive. Tina Beaird, genealogy and local history librarian, will share success stories and offer tips and strategies to break through that brick wall and find that elusive ancestor.

"Glenn Miller Declassified". Presented by Author, Dennis M. Spragg

Wednesday, January 15th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11384280>

Glenn Miller was the most popular bandleader of the big band era. At the height of his popularity in 1942, he famously enlisted in the armed forces, and in June 1944, he and his personnel transferred to the United Kingdom. There, assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, they broadcast daily and made hundreds of appearances. On December 15, 1944, traveling ahead of his unit to prepare broadcasting facilities in Paris, the airplane with Miller aboard disappeared. "Glenn Miller Declassified" is the true story of what tragically happened to him on that fateful day.

Dancing in the Dark: A History of Dance in the Movies. Presented by Brian Rose.

Wednesday, January 29th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11827612>

Illustrated with more than 75 video clips, this talk will survey 130 years of thrilling movie dance performances and demonstrate the extraordinary ways cinema brought dance to life. Dancing on the big screen has provided some of the most ecstatic moments in film history—whether it's Fred Astaire gliding on the ceiling in *Royal Wedding*, the Nicholas Brothers leaping down a staircase in *Stormy Weather*, Moira Shearer pirouetting through the dreamscape of *The Red Shoes*, or John Travolta burning up the dance floor in *Saturday Night Fever*.

Bessie Coleman: Fly! Bessie, Fly! Portrayed by Daisy Century from American Historical Theater.

Saturday, February 1st, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Warren Township branch <https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11662537>

Thursday, February 27th, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Montgomery branch <https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11661919>

Bessie Coleman was the first African American woman to become a licensed airplane pilot and the first American to hold an international pilot license. Never one to let other people define her limitations; she traveled to France to learn to fly when American flight schools refused her because of her race. In later years she shared her experiences with children, encouraging them with the words, "you too can fly".

Seneca Village. Presented by Sylvia Laudien-Meo.

Monday, February 3rd, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11918723>

At a site near Central Park's West 85th Street entrance, there was a place called Seneca Village that was a thriving community in the 1800s. It had over fifty homes plus three churches and a school, and for its African-American property owners, it was a place of residential stability. When the City decided to build Central Park, it used eminent domain to acquire the land and compensate its property owners. After they dispersed in 1857, all traces of the settlement were lost to history. However, since the 1990s, scholars and archeologists have been working to bring the history of Seneca Village to light.

Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. Presented by Dr. Bill Thierfelder

Monday, February 10th, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Virtual Program - please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11745665>

We've all heard of Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and Malcolm X as prominent names from the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. However, there were others who also made important contributions but stayed out of the limelight or simply predated the 1960s. Have you heard of Nannie Helen Burroughs who fired up the crowd in 1900 with her impassioned "How the Sisters Are Hindered From Helping" or Bayard Rustin who had to remain in the shadows because he was gay? How about Pauli Murray who became the first Black woman ordained an Episcopalian priest or Ella Baker or Claudette Colvin who were arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus nine months before Rosa Parks? This presentation sheds light on them.

Madam C. J. Walker—The First Black Female Millionaire. Presented by Rick Feingold.

Wednesday, February 12th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11422773>

Born in the 19th century to former slaves, Sarah Breedlove rose to become the first female, African-American, self-made millionaire in the United States. Known as Madam C.J. Walker, she developed a line of beauty care products for black women. Walker built a factory, hair salon, mail-order business and a beauty school which trained 20,000 sales agents. Later she became a philanthropist and was active in organizing the NAACP's Silent Protest Parade in New York in 1917.

The Daring Dr. Mary Walker: Her Life in the Civil War and the Women's Rights Movement.

Wednesday, March 5th, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Virtual Program - please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/11907200>

Dr. Mary Walker, the sole female recipient of the Medal of Honor, once vowed, "I will always be somebody." She enrolled in medical school at a time when few admitted women and, shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, she requested a commission to serve in the U.S. Army as a medical officer. Repeatedly denied a commission because of her gender, Dr. Walker worked as a volunteer surgeon until 1864, when she was finally hired on a contract with the army. President Andrew Johnson awarded her the Medal of Honor in 1865, determining that she "rendered valuable service to the Government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways." After the war, Dr. Walker devoted her life to furthering the cause of women's rights and became an important, if controversial, figure in the women's suffrage movement.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

DECEMBER

- 2: Preserving Plastic Handles at the Hagley Museum & Library presented by Laura Wahl, 7pm (Princeton Preservation Group - Virtual via Zoom)
- 4: Advice from a Professional Genealogist: 10 Best Tips for Finding Your Ancestors, 11 am (OCL - Lacey Branch)
- 5: Meet the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music, 3:30 pm (OCL - Lacey Branch)
- 11: The Hindenburg Experience, 6 pm (OCL - Lakewood Branch)
- 18: Floriography: The Victorian Language of Flowers, 2:30 pm (OCL - Stafford Branch)
- 20: AC Research Club, 2 pm (ACFPL - AC Heritage Research Room)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

JANUARY

- 10: AC Research Club, 2 pm (ACFPL - AC Heritage Research Room)
- 15: "Glenn Miller Declassified", Presented by Dennis M. Spragg, 7 pm (SCLSNJ - Virtual)
- 23: Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Overturning Every Stone to Break Through Your Brick Wall, 7 pm (SCLSNJ - Virtual)
- 28: The History of Auschwitz: An 80th Anniversary Presentation, 2:30 pm (OCL - Brick Branch)
- 29: Dancing in the Dark: A History of Dance in the Movies, Presented by Brian Rose, 7 pm (SCLSNJ - Virtual)

FEBRUARY

- 1: Black History Month Exterior Banner Display and Exhibit, Atlantic City Free Public Library. ACFPL (Richmond Branch at 4115 Ventnor Ave) will also feature poster photos and text from the Atlantic City Heritage Collections
- 1: George & Martha Washington: A Love Story, Presented by Curt Radabaugh and Alisa Dupuy, 12 pm (Plainfield Public Library, Anne Louise Davis Room)
- 1: Bessie Coleman: Fly! Bessie, Fly! Portrayed by Daisy Century from American Historical Theater, 2 pm (SCLSNJ - Warren branch)
- 3: Seneca Village, Presented by Sylvia Laudien-Meo, 7 pm (SCLSNJ - Virtual)
- 3: Explore the Hidden Archive, 7pm (Ridgewood Public Library)
- 7: AC Research Club, 2 pm (ACFPL - AC Heritage Research Room)
- 10: Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement, Presented by Dr. Bill Thierfelder, 7 pm (SCLSNJ - Virtual)
- 12: Madam C. J. Walker – The First Black Female Millionaire, Presented by Rick Feingold, 7 pm (SCLSNJ - Virtual)
- 13: Explore the Hidden Archive, 11 am (Ridgewood Public Library)
- 13: 12 Million Black Voices: Richard Wright, Edwin Rosskam, & the Golden Age of Documentary Photo Books, Presented by Gary Saretzky, 2:30 pm (Plumstead Library)
- 27: Bessie Coleman: Fly! Bessie, Fly! Portrayed by Daisy Century from American Historical Theater, 6 pm (SCLSNJ - Montgomery branch)

MARCH

- 5: The Daring Dr. Mary Walker: Her Life in the Civil War and the Women's Rights Movement, 7 pm (SCLSNJ - Virtual)

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who sent in articles, photos and event announcements for this issue.
To submit articles, news or calendar events to **The Chronicle**, email Kathlyn Kelly at kkelly@sclibnj.org.

To view past issues of **The Chronicle** visit: <http://njlamembers.org/hpchronicle>