**NJLA History and Preservation Section**

**General Meeting**

**October 16, 2024**

**Zoom**

**Present:** John Beekman, Jackie Oshman, Vanessa Castaldo, Fred Pachman, Gary Saretzky, Juber Ayala, Genevieve Girvan, Katrina Zwaaf, Teresa Bayles, Sarah Hull, Kathlyn Kelly, Jacqueline Silver-Morillo, Diane Biunno, Kyle Brinster, Laura Poll, Lisa Bruckman, Nancy Stewart, Beth Zak-Cohen

Meeting Opened 10:04am

Minutes from June General Meeting: Motion to Approve by Gary, Second by Katrina. All in favor

Minutes from August Executive Board Meeting: can be found on the NJLAmembers website

**President’s Report**: Juber Ayala

* Welcomed everyone
* Introduced Executive Board members
  + President: Juber Ayala
  + Vice President: Jacqueline Silver-Morillo
  + Secretary: Jacquelyn Oshman
  + Newsletter: Kathlyn Kelly
  + Immediate Past President: John Beekman
  + Members at Large: Gary Saretzky, Vanessa Castaldo, Sarah Hull
* Available positions (if interested, contact Juber)
  + Member at Large
  + Professional Development Coordinator
  + Web Presence Coordinator (Juber has been updating some items)
* Professional Development Workshops
  + Juber thanked Kim Adams for getting these programs set up.
  + October 13 – Penny Pinching Preservation with Dyani Feigi of CCAHA
    - Well attended and received.
    - Gave tips on good, better and best practices for preservation on any budget level
  + October 20 – Finding Aid Follies with Tara Maharjan of NJSA
    - East Jersey Old Town Village (Piscataway) at 2pm
* Upcoming Events
  + Monmouth County History and Archives Day will be Saturday October 26th at Brookdale Community College. John B. is attending to sit at our table. Other members will be there for other tables as well
  + They will also be presenting the Roger McDonough Award (cosponsored by H&P) to Tim Corlis and Gary will be the keynote speaker.
  + If anyone is interested in assisting at the table, please reach out to Juber.
* Upcoming Meetings / Archival Tours
  + North NJ – NJHRIC at the Newark Public Library (under construction now but possibly by April 2025 meeting)
  + Central NJ – Middlesex County Archives (possibly January 2025 meeting)
  + South NJ – possibly in conjunction with NJLA pre-conference but a location is TBD
* SOURCE (Student Organization for Unique and Rare Collections Everywhere): Three members of H&P spoke at the SOURCE meeting last week. The students ask very good questions and are eager to network and learn about careers in the field. Juber can provide contact information for Professor Maria Dalbello if anyone would like to speak at a meeting. <https://sites.comminfo.rutgers.edu/source/>

**Vice President’s Report**: Jacqueline Silver-Morillo

* NJLA programming planning meeting is in the works.
* Proposal deadline is December 16th
* John B: If you have an idea for a program, please reach out to potential speakers and write a proposal.

**Newsletter Report**: Kathlyn Kelly

* Thank you everyone for the submissions that were already sent in.
* The deadline for the Fall edition will be November 1st with a release at the end of November.
* All events between December and February can be submitted.
* Email to kkelly@sclibnj.org

**H&P Archives Committee**: Sarah Hull

* Teresa said everything is going well and being preserved
* She is printing and filing information

**H&P Awards Committee**: John Beekman

* Roger McDonough Award will be presented to Tim Corlis at Monmouth County History and Archives Day.
* Nominations will be open from December 2 through March 31 for the Susan Swartzburg Award, to be presented at the NJLA Conference. We have a few nominations rolling over from last year and at least one suggestion was made to John (not a formal application yet).
* Jackie Oshman volunteered to be on the committee again, and Fred will reach out to Elsalynn to see if she would like to as well (in addition to John and Gary).

**H&P Constitution and Bylaws Committee** (up to 3 members)

* If interested, contact Juber

**Nominations Committee** (up to 4 members)

* If interested, contact Juber

**Other Business:**

* Lisa Bruckman had some ideas for Conference or newsletter proposals including tying in Revolution NJ information and a Virginia researcher.
* John B. suggested having a poster session with information on Revolution NJ since we had a program at NJLA last year about it.

**Library Updates:**

Jackie Oshman(New Brunswick Free Public Library) - NBFPL is already planning events for Revolution NJ in late 2025 so that patrons aren’t already saturated with events. Kim planned the Finding Aid workshop for this coming Sunday at 2pm at East Jersey Old Town. We are planning our Day of the Dead event for the end of October and continue digitizing Hall Mills Murder information for Archive.org.

John Beekman(Jersey City Free Public Library) – JC received a Digitization grant from the Community Webs program of Internet Archive to digitize scrapbooks from the local Board of Ed. And Municipal Minutes books that span the mid 19th-mid 20th Centuries and oversized city scrapbooks from the 1960s.

Katrina Zwaaf (Somerset County Library) Somerset has been cataloging and processing their local history items being scanned at the Montgomery Digitization Lab. They are figuring our slowly how to balance cataloging new circulating materials as well as historical items without creating a backlog. A new staff member was recently hired (Teresa will go into detail).

Teresa Bayles (Somerset County Library) A new Full Time Assistant has been hired for the Digitization Lab. They are currently scanning yearbooks, scrapbooks, pamphlets, and maps from their branches. SCLS is forming a task force for Revolution NJ events.

Kathlyn Kelly (Somerset County Library) Somerset held it’s Journey to the Past event this past weekend where historic places not usually open to the public were available. They will be having a virtual program on November 14th titled “Morristown: the Darkest Winter of the Revolutionary War” ["Morristown: The Darkest Winter of the Revolutionary War" - Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (libnet.info)](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/10636903)

Diane Biunno (Archivist at RU and MARAC Caucus Rep) Rutgers recently digitized audio recordings from the Benny Carter Collection (Jazz Musician) and will be co-presenting with MARAC an author talk by Katie Singer at the Dana Library at Newark on October 24th. [Benny Carter Audio Recordings | Digital Collections (rutgers.edu)](https://collections.libraries.rutgers.edu/benny-carter-audio-recordings) [Alien Soil: Oral Histories of Great Migration Newark with author Katie Singer - Rutgers Libraries (LibCal) - Rutgers University Libraries](https://libcal.rutgers.edu/event/12954566)

Gary Saretzky: The Princeton Preservation Group will be hosting a program by Laura Wahl, conservator of the Hagley Museum and Library, on plastic artifacts on December 2nd. He is also consulting with the Roebling Museum on a grant to preserve photos and diaries. They are looking for a part time Archivist if anyone is interested in applying. [Laura Wahl (princetonpreservation.org)](https://princetonpreservation.org/laura-wahl.html)

<https://www.journeythroughjersey.com/sites/roebling-museum/>

Jacqueline Silver-Morillo (Atlantic City Free Public Library) ACFPL is having a Native American Strength of Song and Dance program on November 7th from 5-7pm.

Beth Zak-Cohen (Newark Public Library) NPL is hosting an exhibit about the Ironbound section on November 7th. They are also digitizing the Newark Sunday Call newspaper.

Sarah Hull (Plainfield Public Library) PPL completed their digitization project of local public school yearbooks through the Internet Archive. This week starts the Queen City Film Festival which includes free film screenings and an opening gala on Friday night. Saturday 10/19 will have an event about the History of Witchcraft and in November they will have an in person Architecture program. In early 2025, a major Capital Construction project will begin and will likely cause most, if not all, programming to go virtual.

Laura Poll (Middletown Township) Laura is celebrating her one month anniversary as the Archivist at Middletown Township. She was formerly at the Trenton Public Library. She is evaluating the collection and considering construction in her new room.

Lisa Bruckman (Woodbridge Public Library) This is Lisa’s first meeting and she is a Part Time Children’s Librarian at Woodbridge. She studied Art History and is a poet who uses genealogy in her work. Woodbridge is having an exhibit in conjunction with a current PBS documentary on Iselin and the Metropark area.

Kyle Brinster (Burlington County) Kyle is a Genealogist and Local Historian. BC received a grant to increase the web presence of their NJ Room and that snowballed into an OMECA profile for their digitized collections. They are thinking of switching their platform to ContentDM or another service but would like input from other libraries that have used the software. [www.Burlcohistory.org](http://www.Burlcohistory.org)

Juber Ayala (Newark, HRIC) The NJHRIC received a resolution from the NJ Senate and General Assembly in September. They are hosting an exhibit commemorating the 1974 Puerto Rican Rebellion and recently had 80 attendees at a walking tour on the same subject.

Motion to Close Meeting by Sarah H., 2nd by Gary

Meeting Closed 11:04am