

# The Chronicle

New Jersey Library Association  
History and Preservation Section Newsletter

Volume 11, Number 2

Fall 2009

*Our Purpose: To promote the work of New Jersey libraries involved in the collection, organization, conservation, preservation, publication and interpretation of historical materials*



## Archives and History Day Saturday, October 10, 2009

held at the  
Monmouth County Library Headquarters

(Pictured above from L to R ) Gary Saretzky Monmouth County Archivist, Ron Becker of Rutgers University Libraries Special Collections and University Archives, David Mitros former Morris County Archivist and 2009 Roger McDonough Award recipient, and representing the H&P Section Elsalyn Palmisano, who was the second RMA recipient in 2003.

## Plainfield Public Library, 2009 award winner

The Plainfield Public Library has been named winner of the 2009 *Community Change Award* by the New Jersey Black Issues Convention (NJBIC), for its unique Diversity Studies Collection. This study collection contains published and unpublished resources on the history, culture and literature of African-Americans, including photographs and oral histories.

According to Library Director Joe Da Rold, the Diversity Studies Collection is an expansion of its award-winning local history collection. "The development of our Diversity Studies Collection has led to exciting partnerships within Plainfield's African American community.

This has resulted in the donation of 5,000 photographs and 2,000 books on African-American culture and history from two local residents." (cont. p. 3)

## New Jersey Fall History Facts

- **OCTOBER 15, 1825**  
GROUND BROKEN  
FOR MORRIS CANAL  
AT LAKE HOPAT-  
CONG
- **NOVEMBER 10, 1904**  
FIRST U.S. BATTLE-  
SHIP NEW JERSEY  
LAUNCHED
- **DECEMBER 1, 1969**  
OYSTER CREEK NU-  
CLEAR POWER STA-  
TION WENT ONLINE

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## Call for Nominations - 2010 Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award

**Deadline extended due to  
lack of nominees - those  
familiar with our field  
over a period of time  
please provide your  
input!**

The Awards Committee  
of the NJLA History and

Preservation Section is  
seeking nominations for  
the 2010 Susan G.  
Swartzburg Preservation  
Award.

This award honors the  
memory of a librarian  
whose leadership in New  
Jersey inspired and in-

fluenced many others in  
our profession, particu-  
larly in the areas of pres-  
ervation of library mate-  
rials, archives, and the  
book arts.

Criteria:

The History (cont. p. 3)

## Newark Public Library, Special Collections *by Chad Leinaweaver*

### New Acquisitions

1. "John Cotton Dana, Librarian, Newark Public Library, Director, Newark Museum" ca. 1929 scrapbook of newsclippings and ephemera pertaining to the death of John Cotton Dana. Gift of Timothy J. Crist.

2. Nelsen, R. Arvid, ed. *A Commemorative Keepsake Volume Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries...*, [Chicago]: ALA, ACRL, RBMS, 2009. Gift of the RBMS

### ***New Jersey through Artists' Eyes: Garden State Iconography exhibit***

*Curated by William J. Dane and Chad Leinaweaver*

**September 28 – December 31, 2009**

**Main Library, Third Floor Gallery, 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ**

Referred to as the barrel tapped at both ends or by its various highway exits (as opposed to its actual towns, landmarks, and scenery), New Jersey has consistently had its own imagery overshadowed, mimicked, or at

worst, ignored. However, artists born, raised, or residing off of those exit ramps, have long made a career out of documenting various iconography of the state. Some of those artists collected by the Newark Public Library has collected over its 120-year history are on view in *New Jersey Through Artists' Eyes: Garden State Iconography*.

The featured artist of the exhibition is Helen Frank, a Springfield artist raised in Newark and Maplewood, who is known for depicting images of the state: children walking on the Jersey Shore, a busy commercial street in Newark, and even the vacant parking lot of the local Pathmark. Also included is the work of Helen M. Stummer of Metuchen, a self-described "visual sociologist" who has made a career of documenting the life of Newark inner-city families. A special tribute is made to Lucille Hobbie, born in Boonton, who passed away in 2008; Morris County imagery is synonymous with Hobbie, who used many of the historic sites of the county in her work. The exhibition includes the work of Hoboken-based artist Peter Homitzky, Glen Ridge artist Joseph Konopka, former Newark City Surveyor and photographer Donald Farkas, as well as several nineteenth century engravers.



**Image left:** Lithograph. *Washington Corners School, Mendham*, By Lucille Hobbie, ca. 1999. No. 24 in an edition of 60. Gift of the artist.  
**Newark Public Library exhibit**

## North Jersey History Center, MPL

*by Mary McMahon*

**Recently processed collections** at the North Jersey History Center include:

[Angus Family Evidence Scrapbook, 1853-1969](#). One scrapbook of research materials used to compile Angus family genealogy. Includes photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings and one burial record.

[North Jersey History & Genealogy Center Autograph Collection, 1685-1992](#).

This collection contains the autographs and signatures of over 100 people collected by the Morristown Library's administration over the years.

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### Award Winner 2009 and PPL News Items by Joe Da Rold

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(cont.) Publicity about these donations has motivated others to donate family histories and resources that otherwise might have been lost.

The collection is housed in the library's Archives Room, where items are shelved under optimal environmental conditions and under tighter security than in the main Reading Room, thus reducing the risk of theft of rare and important titles.

#### News item #1

Plainfield Public Library's Local History Department has started a Memoir Writing group. The first meeting was held on October 29, 2009. The impetus for this group was generated by interest in the **Lost But Not Forgotten** exhibition. Many long-time Plainfield residents who came to the library exhibit expressed their wish to share their memories of Plainfield. The Library hopes that

this will create an interest in story-writing and oral history projects to expand and enhance the Local History Collection at Plainfield. The online version of the exhibit may be viewed at: <http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/OnlineExhibits/LBNF/LBNF.html>

#### News item #2

The unprecedented success of Plainfield Public Library's **Lost But Not Forgotten** exhibition has (continued on page 4)

### From the NJLA H & P President's Desk, by John Beekman

#### C3NJ Task Force and Symposium

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, H&P Vice President Nancy Madacsi, Member-at-Large Michele Stricker and I were among the attendees at a symposium held by the Collections Care Consortium of New Jersey (C3NJ), which is the group implementing a statewide assessment of conservation needs throughout NJ, funded through the IMLS Connecting to Collections grant. Among the presentations was a "sneak peek" at the results of the statewide survey of libraries, museums, and archives

conducted during the past year. While the full report is yet to be made public, one startling statistic bears an early mention: of the number of reporting libraries and archives, nearly 60% reported that less than half of their special collections were cataloged/processed. That number is of course pushed up by the amount of underprocessed materials in archival institutions, but it does reflect a situation in libraries as well.

There will be another meeting of the Task Force on November 30. As the results are fully processed and the report is made available, we will keep

the History and Preservation section informed so that we can help to disseminate the findings and recommendations produced. In addition to inventory, the report will address the full range of services and skills needed to conserve our historical materials and make them accessible to the public, from preservation to marketing. Hopefully, a framework of best practices based on a survey sponsored by IMLS will be useful for institutions seeking funding for individual projects going forward.

(continued on page 4)

### 2010 Swartzburg Preservation Award by Bob Golon

(cont.) and Preservation Section will confer this award annually on an individual NJLA member in recognition of his / her leadership and dedication to the preservation or interpretation of archival, library, or historical materials.

The nominee should exhibit one or more of the following qualities:

Leadership - Examples of this would include: support for funding of conservation or interpretation of archival, library, or historical materials.

The nominee should exhibit one or more of the following qualities:

Leadership - Examples of this would include: support for funding of conserva-

tion projects; promoting education of conservation issues; and increasing the visibility of archival / history materials.

Creativity - Examples of this would include: developing new and interesting methods of interpretation through exhibits, programs, lectures, and publications.

Commitment - Examples of this would include: building an impressive body of work at one or more institutions in the areas of conservation, archives, and / or historical fields; and exhibiting knowledge of and concern for the basic principles of preservation over time.

Past winners of this award include:

2003 - Elsalyn Palmisano

2004 - Ralph Ocker

2005 - Elizabeth "Betty" Steckman

2006 - Gary Saretzky

2007 - Joseph DaRold

2008 - Susan Gulick

2009 - Peggy Norris

Nominations need to be submitted by December 1, 2009. Please send your nominating materials, including a nomination letter and any supporting documentation, to: **Bob Golon**

Project Archivist, Princeton  
Theological Seminary (cont. p. 4)



**NJLA History & Preservation Section Board:**

President: John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library

Vice-President: Nancy Madasci, Centenary College Library

Secretary: Jessica Myers, Plainfield Public Library

Chronicle editor: Mary McMahon, Morristown and Morris Township Library

*The Chronicle / The New Jersey Library Association H&P Section Newsletter*

**Questions? Comments?**

**Visit our Wiki—  
[http://  
njla.pbworks.com  
/History+&+](http://njla.pbworks.com/History+&+)**

**Image below:**

Color etching. *Bleeker Street*, by Helen Frank, 2004. One of an edition of 18. Library purchase 2004.

**Newark Public Library**

***New Jersey through Artists' Eyes: Garden State Iconography exhibit***

**September 28 –  
December 31, 2009**

**Main Library, Third  
Floor Gallery, 5  
Washington Street,  
Newark, NJ**

**PPL news (cont.)** motivated the Library to publish the ***Lost But Not Forgotten*** exhibition images and text in book format. The book will be designed by staff through a web publication site, and the library hopes to have it available to the public in time for Christmas. Since the book is still in the creation stage, exact cost and date of arrival is still undetermined, but prepublication orders will be taken. More information will appear on the Library webpage.

**2010 Susan G. Swartzburg  
Preservation Award**

(cont.) P.O. Box 821

64 Mercer Street

Princeton, NJ 08542-0803

You can also send nominations electronically to [bob.golon@yahoo.com](mailto:bob.golon@yahoo.com)

Previously submitted nominations can be resubmitted for consideration.

The nominating committee will review all applications after December 22 and will choose the award recipient in January, 2010. The award will be presented at the NJLA Spring Conference in Long Branch in April.

Please contact me either via email or directly at 609-497-7862 with any questions. Regards, Bob Golon

***From the NJLA H & P President's Desk, by John Beekman***

(cont.) Librarians and administrators from across the state are invited to submit proposals for the NJLA 2010 Annual Conference Poster Sessions, which discuss innovative library program ideas, success stories, research studies, problem solving and more! Poster sessions may present any of the following:

- a report of a research study
- an analysis of a practical problem-solving effort
- a description of an innovative library program

Poster session participants place materials such as pictures, data, graphs, diagrams and narrative text on 4' x 8' poster boards or poster triptychs. Posters should be free standing because wall space cannot be guaranteed.

During their assigned time periods, participants informally discuss their presentations with conference attendees.

The 2010 NJLA Conference will be held Monday, April 26 through Wednesday, April 28 at the Ocean Place Resort Center, Long Branch. Preconferences will be held on Monday, April 26th, and conference programs and exhibits to be held on Tuesday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 28th.

Poster sessions will be held on Tuesday from 2:30PM-3:30PM and on Wednesday from 11:30AM-12:30PM. Presenters are required to be present to answer questions and discuss their poster material for the one-hour time slot on the day reserved for their session. A table will be provided, but you must provide your own poster material and handouts.

Please send in your proposals using the NJLA 2010 Conference Poster Session Proposal online form at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C7ZLDDP>

The DEADLINE for submitting this form with your Poster Session proposal is Friday, January 15, 2010.

