

The Chronicle

NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SECTION NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 3

Winter 2010

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

NJLA Conference 2010

History and Preservation Section Program at NJLA Conference

We are all looking forward to the NJLA Spring Conference that is being held on April 26-28th at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa. The History and Preservation Section of NJLA is offering an exciting selection of programs that we have organized or are co-sponsoring with other sections.

President's Program – Date: Monday April 26 7:30-9:00 PM

The History and Preservation section is proud to be co-sponsoring the President's Program which will occur on Monday April 26th. The program features New Jersey historians Mark Mappen and Bob Ingle who will discuss New Jersey, the Sopranos and beyond. Mappen has authored the book "There's More to New Jersey than the Sopranos" while Ingle focuses on the dark side of the state in his work, "The Soprano State."

People and Places -- Date: Tuesday April 27 9:00-9:50 AM

Speakers: Randall Gabrielan (author), Sharon Hazard (West Long Branch Library -- author), Cynthia T Harris (Jersey City Public Library, author), Cheryl Turkington (Morristown Library, author). A panel of local history authors, from Long Branch, Morristown, and Jersey City will discuss not only their respective work, but how they conducted their local history research and how they gathered the materials for their publications.

To be announced -- Date: Tuesday April 27 11-11:50 AM

We are sad to inform NJLA's History and Preservation Section that John Cunningham will not be speaking during this section. Just recently, due to his advanced age of 94, he has had to medically retire from being New Jersey's Historian. The entire H&P Section community wish him, and his family, all the best.

Dimensions of Digital Preservation – Date: Tuesday April 27 1:30-2:20 PM

Speakers: Paul Martinez (Montclair University), Brigid Burke (Fairleigh Dickinson University). Paul Martinez and Brigid Burke will cover the planning and procedures involved in digital preservation projects, with a focus on libraries that are considering smaller projects on limited budgets.

NJ Winter History Facts

FEBRUARY 6, 1756—AARON BURR BORN IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

MARCH 1879—FIRST ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE HELD IN WHARTON, NEW JERSEY. BY 1990 PARADE IS HELD IN MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY.

APRIL 1878—THOMAS EDISON TAKES HIS TIN FOIL PHONOGRAPH (HIS FIRST GREAT INVENTION DEVELOPED AT MENLO PARK, NEW JERSEY) TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

MAY 1903—LOTTA CRABTREE, SILENT MOVIE STAR, LEASES HER COTTAGE ON LAKE HOPATCONG IN MOUNT ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

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Section News

February, 2010, Centenary College - - Early last spring Nancy Madacsi, H&P Vice President and Director of the Taylor Memorial Library at Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey received a request from a member of the college's International Department: could she possibly put together a tour of the campus to acquaint newly-arrived international students with their school? Each summer dozens and dozens of international students arrive on the Hackettstown, New Jersey campus for summer classes. For many of the students, this is their first trip to the United States and their first introduction to American life. Some of the students will remain at Centenary as matriculated students; but the others, who are visiting only for the summer, have just a few weeks to explore and experience American culture.

Nancy decided to use the college's archives as a starting point for what she decided would be a historical tour, using her extensive knowledge of the college's history to tell the visiting students about Centenary's rich history beginning with its founding in 1867 at the centennial celebration of American Methodism. Nancy and Centenary's archivist, Colleen Bain, devised a walking tour using old photographs from the archives put together in the form of a small brochure.

Among photos in the brochure are old and current photos of the "Front Parlors" of the college - - which actually closely resemble one another since the parlors today are still decorated in Victorian style. Another old photo shows the laying of the cornerstone of the "new" main building in 1900 after the massive original main hall had been destroyed in a fire on Halloween night, 1899. To this day Centenary's main building has two cornerstones, one from 1876 and the second from 1900.

Another archival photo shows what the dining hall used to look like years ago when Centenary was an all-girls school and girls had to dress in white for dinner. Next to this a photo appears of the much newer dining hall built more recently. The brochure also includes photos of the bronze plaques that line the halls of the main building, listing the names of Centenary graduates through the years including many notable individuals such as Deborah Ann Harry (Class of 1965) known to many as the lead singer of the band, "Blondie."

After completing the research, Nancy and her staff took several groups of students on tours of the campus. The tours were so successful that a request was made to have copies of the tour booklet made into a self-guided tour that visitors to campus - - including prospective students, parents, and even alumni - - can enjoy. Using the graphic design skills of its Rutgers University MLIS intern as well as her knowledge of Publisher, they put together an eight page color brochure which is available to all visitors. If you are ever on campus, please feel free to take the tour!



Centenary College Logo

Blondie



Section News, cont.

Plainfield Public Library has been chosen by StoryCorps to participate in their nationwide *Historias* oral history project. Library Director Joe Da Rold is coordinating the interviews which will take place on March 2nd and 3rd. Funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, StoryCorps *Historias* expects to record the stories of 700 Latinos around the country. Interviews will be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and at the University of Texas, Austin. Plainfield Public Library first worked with StoryCorps in 2007 for its locally based *Latinos in Conversation* project.

From **Joe Da Rold**-Director, Plainfield Public Library

The Monmouth County Archives is processing its Red Bank Register Negative Collection, most of which was acquired in 2008. With some exceptions, the negatives date from 1979 to 1987 and are in almost 15,000 envelopes, arranged chronologically, with a few to many 35mm negatives in each envelope. The acidic envelopes are being replaced with archival paper sleeves made from photocopies in order to capture the original descriptions and numbers. The envelopes are being cataloged in a PastPerfect database that includes images from scans of contact sheets made in our darkroom. The minimal descriptive information on the envelopes is being augmented by locating related photographs in the published newspaper. The work is being done by archives staff, volunteers, and an intern.

From **Gary D. Saretzky**-Archivist, Monmouth County

Memoir Writing Club at Plainfield Public Library

Seldom has collecting Local History been so instantly rewarding. Our Memoir Writing Club has been a great success. We had a vision of what history we might get and how important it would be, but we never expected that we would learn so much. Members have written and shared stories of important events, friendships, and family history that we did not know and could never have imagined. For instance, we heard from 5 people about their memories of war or D Day. A few of these described the impact on Plainfield youth as it was announced at two different movie theaters and downtown. Another described her memories of war when she was living in Great Britain. Many bring old photographs. One shared the history of her great grandmother's arrival from Italy at the turn of the century and the challenges she met here. Even the follow up conversations have been fascinating. We began with 8 members and have welcomed many more as people bring friends or relatives. Try it at your library. It has been wonderful!

From **Jessica M. Myers**-Local History Librarian, Plainfield Public Library

The Chronicle



Pass it On: Saving Heritage and Memories, Preserving Family Treasures

Ever wonder how to store old baseball cards? How to carefully handle a fragile old family photo? How to preserve your digital diary or your quilt collection? Everyone who saves things, from family mementos to world-class collections, has similar questions.

Libraries care for their vast and varied collections everyday, so they are the perfect places for learning about preservation. In recognition of this, the American Library Association will launch its first Preservation Week May 9–15, 2010. The New Jersey State Library is partnering with ALA in developing and piloting a new workshop to help your library celebrate collecting and preservation in your community, and to highlight your institution as a source of preservation information.

Preservation is a theme that can be used to bring in people and develop new audiences in your library. You do not have to be an expert in preservation to present informative programs to the public. This workshop will give you the ideas and resources you will need to develop successful preservation programming for your customers.

Participants will learn some basic preservation strategies for assisting the public in caring for their family treasures, as well as ideas for fostering preservation awareness and developing outreach programs in your community.

Possible outreach and awareness ideas include digitizing family photographs or papers, digital archiving and metadata for the home photographer, display of family treasures, sharing your family food heritage, a memories “road show,” caring for family documents, scrapbooking for posterity, organizing family collections, home movie day, quilt/wedding dress care, and disaster recovery for important family papers. Register now for what promises to be an interesting and informative workshop for library directors, preservation staff, or program/outreach managers.

Cost: \$20 (covers continental breakfast and lunch)

Time: 9:30-- 3:30 workshop (9:00-9:30 Registration)

March 30: Parsippany Troy Hills Public Library

March 31: Hasbrouck Heights Public Library

April 7: East Brunswick Public Library

April 8: Cherry Hill Public Library

Space is limited. Registration and payment takes places online at: www.njstatelib.org/LDB/Events

For further information please contact Michele Stricker, Deputy Director, Library Development Bureau, New Jersey State Library at mstricker@njstatelib.org.

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Section News, cont.

At the **Morristown and Morris Township—North Jersey History and Genealogy Center** we are moving ahead with a long anticipated digital image project. Recently we announced the addition of a new staff member: Carolyn Dorsey. In conjunction with the NJHGC archivist, Mary McMahon Dawson, Carolyn has been scanning images from our NJHGC Photograph and Image Collection in preparation for a new visual database that will augment our web presence and, hopefully, increase our web patronage. With increased visibility online we are confident that the public, in becoming more aware of our visual collections, will increase our access, use and in-house visit statistics.

Also, we would like to inform the community that the February hip replacement surgery of our Department Head, Chrys Jochem, was a success. She is recovering at home now, and soon to attend out-patient rehabilitation. We wish her a speedy recovery and, literally, hope she is back on her feet in no time!

The historical research of Morristown's Irish immigrant past, and the resulting history compiled by Assistant archivist Cher Turkington, was recently spotlighted in a March 10 article from the Daily Record Morris County newspaper. The piece was entitled *Irish roots deep in Morris*. The timing couldn't have been better! **From Mary McMahon Dawson**—archivist, MMT NJHGC

Letter from the President

Well, it's been quite a year for the NJ library community. I am too new to the profession to have much basis for comparison, but I get an almost physical sense of the challenges we are all facing in coping with the repercussions of the economic meltdown – so much collective belt-tightening makes it hard to breathe. While some sectors are improving (so they tell us), those of us whose fortunes are tied to state and municipal budgets must surely suspect that it will get worse before it gets better. Given this sad truth, it is understandable that our instincts tell us to hunker down, to cut back on our activities, to focus on today's needs and the tasks at hand. A bit of reflection, however, will urge us in the other direction.

Now is the time for advocacy, for outreach, for strength in asserting the value of libraries, and our role as historical and community repositories. Which is why I hope that many of us will be doing programs for ALA's Preservation Week, to demonstrate that knowledge we have to share. If you're wondering what sort of program you can do, our colleague Michele Stricker has set up workshops at a very affordable rate to provide some ideas. I hope that more of us will be active in NJLA, ALA, and other professional organizations, and in our regional cooperatives, to bring our voices together to protect our communities' investment in free access to information. Most of all I hope that more of those who read this newsletter will become active in shaping the future of our section.

As I look back over the past year I am very happy with the meetings and tours we have had, from our great collaboration with the Reference Section in our meeting in Atlantic City, through our introduction to that hidden gem of NJ history, Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University (a place to which we must return soon), to reconnecting with some past members at Archives Day and in Newark. Of the other goals I had set for myself, however, much remains to be done. I hope that perhaps we can establish an official responsibility for the wiki under one of the current board positions. I hope too that we can widen our range of collaboration with other sections and organizations. Much remains to be done – for us to do. I hope to see you there. - **John Beekman**, Jersey City Public Library

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

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Visit our Wiki—<http://njla.pbworks.com/History++ Preservation>

MARAC

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

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For Information Contact the CAPES Coordinator today!

Elizabeth Shepard
CAPES Coordinator

capescoordinator@gmail.com
home 973-744-0191

To Apply for the Program, Contact the NJ Historical Commission at

<http://www.state.nj.us/state/divisions/historical/grants/>

The service is provided by members of the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and is funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. CAPES is available to both public and private organizations and institutions, but the collections to be evaluated must be accessible to the public and tell the story of New Jersey's history.