

The Chronicle

New Jersey Library Association
History and Preservation Section Newsletter

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NJLA's joint H&P/Reference meeting - Atlantic City, June 12, 2009



(From l to r) David Pinto, Library Director; Bob Golon, Archivist; Julie Senack, Head of Reference; Heather Perez, Archivist/Ref. Lib and Lisa Coats, Ref. Lib.

Taming the Beast: Removing the Fear Factor from Local History Reference

The Reference Section and History and Preservation Section of NJLA combined forces on Friday June 12, 2009 and sponsored an event on Local History Reference at the Atlantic City Free Public Library (ACFPL – www.acfpl.org).

The program was a roaring success – organizations from all over New Jersey were represented at this standing room only affair (extra chairs were brought in!). Reference and local history librarians from all over New Jersey, from Mahwah to Cape May, came to the Atlantic City meeting. Some of the attendees have

been members of NJLA for over 30 years.

Atlantic City Free Public Library Director, Maureen Sherr Frank, introduced herself and welcomed long time friends to the event. She introduced Bob Golon, President, NJLA History and Preservation Section and Lisa Coats, President, NJLA Reference Section. Frank then turned the program over to Bob Golon, who introduced the panelists Julie Senack, Head of Reference, ACFPL, Heather Perez, Archivist for the Alfred M. Heston Collection and Reference Librarian at ACFPL and David Pinto, Library Director, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Library. Each of the panelists spoke individually about what it was like to answer local history questions and maintain a special collection and they took questions at the end.

Julie Senack kicked off the discussion with some statistics: ACFPL gets 21,000 requests for information per year and over 500 of those are for the Atlantic City Archives. Many of the questions are related to the history of Atlantic City which is housed in the Heston Collection, a room devoted to this topic. Last year, the Heston Collection Web Site got 10,000 hits. Tourists, historians and authors and even TV and movie scriptwriters come in to ask questions about the famed Atlantic City boardwalk. How does the library manage this volume? Senack provided some key steps for “taming the beast”:

- Put together a collection development policy
- Develop a policy and guidelines
- Keep a record of the local history statistics

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This summer in New Jersey history

June 24, 2009— NJ's 345th Birthday

July 1909— Rail service between Jersey City and Manhattan begins

July 1, 1919— Construction begins on Holland Tunnel

July 10, 1926 - US Naval ammunition depot at Lake Denmark explodes

July 18, 1877 - Thomas Edison first conceives the phonograph

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

NJLA H&P Section Board Members:

President: John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library

Past-President: Bob Golon, Princeton Theological Seminary



**Freehold, NJ—
Migrant potato
picker boarding-
house**

Source: http://rs6.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?fsaall:2:./temp/~ammem_enEJ:

Great Depression exhibit, Monmouth County Library

The Monmouth County Archives is preparing an exhibit on the Great Depression, with an emphasis on Monmouth County, to be held throughout October 2009 in the lobby of the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan.

The exhibit includes documents and photographs from the New Jersey State Archives, Newark Public Library, Rutgers University,

the Monmouth County Archives, and other repositories.

Among topics covered are the establishment of Jersey Homesteads, the cooperative later renamed Roosevelt, in Upper Freehold; the S.S. Morro Castle disaster in September 1934; and relief for the indigent and unemployed.

Also at the Library, the Archives is hosting a book re-

pair workshop and a lecture on Depression-era photographers Edwin and Louise Rosskam on October 7.

On October 10, Dr. Mark Wasserman, Rutgers History Department, will address the topic of the Great Depression in Monmouth County in his keynote address during Archives and History Day. Contact: Shelagh Reilly, sreilly@co.monmouth.nj.us
By: Gary Saretsky

NEDCC Preservation courses

By: Michele Stricker, New Jersey State Library

NEDCC is offering new "Managing Preservation" series of five seminars.

Application is required and class size is limited to 20 participants. The cost of the full series is \$1,000.00 and students receive a certificate of completion. Classes offered:

Fundamentals of Preservation

- Collections Maintenance

- Emergency Preparedness

- Reformatting & Digitization

- Preservation Administration

For more information visit NEDCC's Managing Preservation website at www.nedcc.org/mp0910 or contact dconn@nedcc.org.

Application deadline is 9/11/09.

Newark Public Library Special Collections

By C. Leinaweaver

*Some Notable
Acquisitions*

1.[Illustrated Book]. Ward, Lynd. *God's Man: A Novel in Woodcuts*, New York: Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, 1929. [signed copy]. Gift of former NPL staffer, Daniel Schechter. This is a noted 1929 early graphic novel by a New Jersey artist for which we have many other examples.

2.[Shopping Bags]. Collection of over 100 shopping bags from various stores including Ann Taylor, Talbot's and Ralph Lauren and possible new bags from Saks Fifth Avenue, stores based in Montclair (Semplice, etc.),

Fresh Produce, Abercrombie & Fitch and Macy's. Gift from Edith Rights.

3. [Book]. Gentenaar, Peter. *Pure Paper*, Rijswijk : Wim Findhammer/uitgeverij Compres, 2008. Library purchase. A collection of pamphlets on paper samples, this publication of nine individual books has each "printed on different sorts of cover and book papers. Included are articles on fibre artists at work, from fibre to paper, natural paper, traditional paper, and the future of paper."

North Jersey History Center's new website



**Morristown and Morris
Township Library—old
entrance on Miller Ave.**

**Home of the North Jersey
History & Genealogy
Center**

The North Jersey History and Genealogy Center recently updated and redesigned its [website](http://www.jfpl.org/NJHC) (www.jfpl.org/NJHC) to achieve a better user experience and to accommodate new and to-be-expanded areas for [digital image collections](#). Currently the 'Digital Image Collections'

section includes two collections: 'Morris County Atlases' and 'The Morristown Ghost'. The [Atlas collection](#) includes complete color images from three historic Morris County Atlases, published in 1868, 1887 and 1910. These atlases were originally published to keep Americans apprised of the new roads and rail lines

leading to towns and cities. They also showed property ownership and in many cases included renderings of homes, businesses and civic buildings. These historic images are aesthetically pleasing as well as being important sources of information for historians and genealogists.
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Vice-President: Nancy Madasci-Centenary College Library

Secretary: Jessica Myers-Plainfield Public Library

Chronicle editor: Mary McMahon-Morristown and Morris Twp. Library

North Jersey History Center's iVina BookScan

The Morristown & Morris Township Library

Over 13,000 researchers visited our department last year, requesting nearly 50,000 items from our collections for historical research, historic preservation, and genealogy. Because of the nature of our collection, we provide access to books that are often very old and fragile.

Many of these books have been around for hundreds of years, and, until free digital versions become available to the general public, we'd like

to see our books last even longer. We are constantly performing a balancing act: trying to provide access to collection material while also preserving it for the future. One way we will accomplish this is by offering our researchers a book scanner that will not damage the bindings of our books.

In July, the North Jersey History Center became the first library in the country to install the iVina BookScan Station.

By: Christine Jochem



2009 Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award

The History and Preservation Section is proud to award the 2009 Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award to Peggy Norris of the Ridgewood Public Library. The award was presented to Peggy at the NJLA Honors and Awards Reception in Long Branch on April 28th by section past-President Bob Golon on behalf of the History and Preservation Section 2009 Awards Committee.

Peggy manages and preserves the collection of books and documents for the Ridgewood Public Library's Local History Center relating to New Jersey, Bergen County and Ridgewood history. She also serves as Supervising Reference Librarian in the Library's Adult Services department. She has created a comprehensive web site which promotes and describes these valuable resources. The web site can be viewed at http://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org/localhistory/local_history_guide.htm. In recognition of her important contributions to the community, Peggy was appointed Village Historian by the Ridgewood Village Council in 1999 and continues to serve in that role. Eileen Colyer, the Adult Services Supervisor of the Ridgewood Public Library, in her nomination letter, stated that "Peggy's leadership and dedication continues to be an inspiration to both our public and staff."

The History and Preservation Section agrees! Congratulations again, Peggy.

By: Bob Golon, Princeton Theological Seminary

Happy 345th Birthday New Jersey!!

Wayne Public Library
Reference Librarian
Wendy Sanford celebrated New Jersey's



345th anniversary with patrons after a program called "Castles of New Jersey" presented by Phil Jaeger on June 22, 2009. The homemade New Jersey cake was created by Wendy and reference colleague Pat Zerbe.

By: Wendy Sanford

...new website (continued from p. 2)

'The Morristown Ghost' was first published in 1792 and our digital version is of the 1876 facsimile edition of the infamous story of Ransford Rogers, a tale of deception and ghostly doings.

Additionally our site includes: links to dozens of [finding aids](#) from our manuscript and archive collections; a detailed outline of [our collection](#) with several inventories; [reading room](#) information; PDF files of [The North Jersey Histo-](#)

[rian](#), our quarterly newsletter; and informational [re-search guides](#).

We hope the newly redesigned site better reflects our department and we encourage you to visit our online presence and watch for more features to be added over the coming months.

By: Jim Collins

Upcoming Meetings:

August 14, 2009 Kean University, 10 AM meeting. Followed by tour of [Liberty Hall Museum](#).

October 7, 2009 [Monmouth County Library Headquarters](#), TBA. Featuring Monmouth County Archives Week program.

President's Message: Let me begin my first President's message by thanking Bob Golon for a great year of service as section president. He has set a high standard to which I can aspire. Next, I'd like to also thank Joanne Parra for her long term of service as editor of *The Chronicle*. You may notice that this current issue has a new look, courtesy of our new editor, Mary McMahon. One more word of thanks is due to everyone at the Atlantic City Free Public Library, and our colleagues in the Reference Section, for a successful June meeting and program.

The upcoming year seems poised to offer opportunities and challenges for our section. Advocating for preservation initiatives including ALA's first Preservation Week next Spring, reaching out to more colleagues, such as Educational Media Librarians, and building our web presence via the NJLA Wiki are all areas I hope we can address. I look forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming meetings and hearing from you via our email list.

NJLA's joint H&P/Reference meeting - Atlantic City, June 12, 2009 (continued from p. 1)

- Get the mayor on your side
- Hire an archivist
- Educate and befriend the reference librarians – give them a tour of the local history room and provide a ready reference index
- Identify limited research hours when the room is open for researchers
- Have circulating copies of popular books
- Have circulating copies of popular books
- Create Finding Aids

The more difficult research questions are handled by Heather Perez who works 80% of the time on the Heston Collection. One of her key areas of attention is the Atlantic City History link on the library website (<http://www.acfpl.org/>), particularly the Alfred M. Heston Collection webpage. Perez emphasized that the more information that gets uploaded to the webpages, the more questions can be answered automatically. Perez is currently working on indexing photographs and postcards – 20,000 and 25,000 so far – and posting the Finding Aids online as well as in the catalog. There is also a list of FAQs online where the curious

can satisfy their desire for information. And a "photo contest" is updated regularly with viewers asked to help identify people in some of the historic photographs. Generate interest without generating additional work – Senack and Perez are working to find that happy medium.

David Pinto spoke about the Special Collection at the Richard Stockton College. He is also responsible for the Government Documents collection but limited his discussion to the double edged sword that is a Special Collection. Stockton is the proud keeper of the John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Collection, a unique collection devoted to the Negro League baseball in New Jersey but most particularly to one of the great players, John Henry "Pop" Lloyd. But special collections need to be maintained.

Unlike the ACFPL, Richard Stockton College library does not have a full time archivist. When David Pinto arrived at the college, the collection was somewhat neglected. No staff, no order, and no money. Maintenance of the collection was haphazard – there were no special handling or processing procedures so Pinto found things like cataloging labels on rare books. So the first thing that Pinto did was to create a sense of order – and make some space with the help of volunteers: remove duplicate items, methodically organize the collection, bring library staff up to speed as to what the collection consisted of, focus the collection on the curriculum, and market your best collections to the community in order to attract funding.

This marketing takes David Pinto on the road throughout New Jersey. And when

he is not promoting the collection on the road, Pinto is focused on what is important to the college. As an academic institution, the material in the collection is driven by classes in the Stockton curriculum. This is part of the mission of the special collection, a key component for limiting the collection to the interests of the community.

After the program was completed, the attendees were treated to a tour of the ACFPL. The entire library is visually appealing, including a full size mural in the new teen area. Atlantic City has a rich colorful history, however, and it was the Heston Room, chock full of historic material that really interested these librarians and archivists. After the tour, a buffet lunch was offered and then the Reference Section and History and Preservation Sections convened for business meetings and the induction of the 2009-2010 officers.

Thanks to Maureen Frank and her staff for a memorable year ending field trip.

By: Elizabeth McDermott, Red Bank Public Library

Elsalyn Palmisano, Local History Consultant, Long Branch Free Public Library