

From the History and Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association

Volume 10, No.1 Spring 2007

State Librarian and NJLA President to participate in HP programs at 2007 Conference

Exhibiting Local History Materials on Your Website Tuesday, April 24 at 11:00 a.m.

Moderator: Joe Da Rold, Director, Plainfield Public Library

Panelists: Sacha Page, Librarian, Local History Department, Plainfield Public Library, Ann Smith, Head of Adult Services, Franklin Township Public Library, Peter Rajcevic, Chief Technology Officer, Plainfield Public Library

From simple to sophisticated, choosing and preparing your visual materials for online display, with focus on special exhibits and database search.

Location! Location! (co-sponsored with the Reader's Advisory Round Table) Wednesday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Moderator: Susan Gulick, Director, Morristown and Morris Township Public Library Participants: Maria Norton, Morristown and Morris Township Public Library; Joe Da Rold, Plainfield Public Library; Connie Paul, CJRLC; Ingrid Bruck, Norma Blake, State Librarian Librarians from across the state share their favorite titles set in New Jersey.

Hidden Treasures of New Jersey Libraries (co-sponsored with the Reference Section) Tuesday, April 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Moderator: Bob Golon, Labor Archivist, Rutgers University

Panelists: Jane Fisher, Director, Rutherford Public Library, Chrys Jochem, Head of Local History, Morristown & Morris Township Public Library

Special collections as a research tool and what to consider before you commit to housing a collection. Learn about the Thomas Nast, the William Carlos Williams, and the Alice Paul collections.

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2007-2008 Candidates for H/P Section office

Vice-President-President-elect

Bob Golon, Labor Archivist, Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University

Secretary

Deborah Mercer, New Jersey Collections Librarian, New Jersey State Library. Members at Large (Please vote for two candidates.)
Susan H. Gulick, Director, Morristown and Morris Township
Public Library

Chad Leinaweaver, Special Collections Librarian, Newark Public Library. Former Director for the Library and Museum Collections, New Jersey Historical Society. Volume 10, No.1 Spring 2007

MARAC conference returns to New Jersey for a successful event

Bob Golon, Labor Archivist for Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

The New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) held a very successful professional conference at the Governor Morris Hotel in Morristown on October 26-28, 2006. The conference attracted 286 attendees. Congratulations are in order to Local Arrangement Committee co-chairs Dale Patterson and Alan Delozier, and Program Committee co-chairs Caryn Radick and Cheryl Stadel-Bevans for putting New Jersey's "best foot forward" and running a fine event.

The conference theme was "Exploring Our Cultural Heritage," and focused on the rich history and traditions of the Morristown area. Thursday, October 26th consisted of workshops on such diverse topics as encoded archival description (EAD), visual and sound materials management, and the development of digital collections. Attendees were also able to take part in many tours of historical sites in the Morristown area such as the Ford Mansion / Washington Headquarters.

The plenary speaker at Friday's general session, Paul Israel, Director and General Editor of the Thomas Edison Papers, gave an informative presentation about the Edison Papers collection. Jeffrey Eger, Editor of the Journal of the Thomas Nast Society, discussed political, editorial, and social cartoonists and how their work influences opinion at the Friday luncheon. The conference attendees also had the opportunity to visit and mingle with 21 exhibitors who participated in the MARAC vendor fair.

MARAC Morristown gives a special thank you to NJLA-HP member Susan Gulick, Director of the Morristown and Morris Township Library, who along with NJLA-HP's Chris Jochem hosted the Friday evening reception for all attendees at the newly expanded North Jersey History Center in their library.

Finally, the conference ended on Saturday, October 28th with its traditional morning breakfast business meeting and awards presentations, which included an invitation to the next MARAC conference, which will be held in April, 2007, in Scranton, Pa.

New CAPES Coordinator

Daniel Linke, University Archivist and Curator of Public Policy Papers Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University

I am pleased to announce that Carla Zimmerman (who recently changed her last name from Tobias) will become the CAPES Coordinator starting January 1, 2007. Carla has had many years of experience as an archivist in Monmouth County and as a CAPES consultant. She has also worked frequently on grant projects funded by the New Jersey Historical Commission, so she is familiar with the realm of grant proposals and reports. This is a two-year term, renewable for up to one additional information information reports; reports; reports; reports; reports; reports; reports; reports and publication and publication

She will be replacing Elsalyn
Palmisano who has been the
Coordinator for the last two years. If I
may quote Gary Saretzky, under
Elsalyn "the CAPES program has made
great strides in visibility, organization,
and quality programming. Her tenure
was marked by timely processing of
proposals and consultant reports;
informative and accurate coordinator
reports; redesigned forms; lively
promotions at professional meetings
and public history events; and very
successful grant proposals that have
given the program a robust bank

In addition to her regular duties, she led the way in organizing the CAPES archives, supplying the Historical Commission with reports they had lost, and creating an invaluable list of the hundreds of CAPES reports that have been

completed. The high standards with which you have coordinated CAPES program will be a model for your successors."

Thank you, Elsalyn.

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MARAC NJ Caucus Institutional Service Award Presented to Plainfield Public Library

"When Joe Da Rold returned to New Jersey 12 years ago as Director of the Plainfield Public Library, he inherited a local-history program similar to most public libraries, one operated through benign neglect. Fortunately, he was armed with ten years of experience as a historical society and museum director in Southern California.

The transformation of the Plainfield Public Library has resulted from his personal vision to make local history the centerpiece of the library, starting with the creation of the library's climate-controlled Archives Room. This facility has helped assure donors that their materials would be cared for properly and led to phenomenal growth in collection development. The library has since mined the community and attracted unique collections of statewide importance, from its architectural drawings to its photograph collections, to its 100 years of Plainfield Police logs, and recently a huge donation of personal papers and photographs from a local branch of the Vail Family.

The Plainfield Public Library's local history collection is now the largest in Union County, but what the staff has done with its collections is what makes them deserving of this award. Over 80% of its 25,000 donated photograph images arrived as glass plate and nitrate negatives in poor condition. Based on a program of preservation, conservation, and access, staff have been dedicated to printing and conserving its images and microfilming records. Joe's grant writing expertise has generated over \$1 million dollars in grants for preserving and organizing



Gary Saretzky and Joe Da Rold

the library's special collections. Despite a relatively small operating budget, the library has been at the forefront of making its collections searchable through its website, and Joe credits his library's local history success as a team effort of dedicated staff in Administration and Technology, as well as in Local History. In 2004 Joe was also recognized by the New Jersey Historical Commission for "outstanding service to public knowledge and preservation of New Jersey history."

(Award presented at Monmouth County Archives Day ceremony October 14, 2006.)

Understanding Photographs: Introduction to Archival Principles and Practices

The Monmouth County Archives are co-sponsoring this Society of American Archivists course in Manalapan on June 28 and June 29. This introductory workshop teaches the basics of how to manage and care for photographs. You will discover how standard archival techniques can be applied successfully to photographs in eight modules: appraising and acquiring; reading and researching; identification and handling; preservation, storage and housing; accessioning and arrangement; description and cataloging; copying; and public service and outreach. Archivists, curators, librarians, record managers, and other professionals working with photograph collections are welcome to attend. Participants should be familiar with basic archival practice.

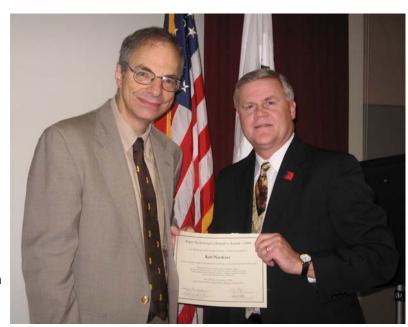
For more information about this workshop, contact Solveig DeSutter in the SAA Professional Education Department, 312-922-0140, education@archivists.org. More information is available on the SAA website: http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2046.

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Remarks on Presentation of McDonough Award Karl J. Niederer

I want to thank the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, the New Jersey Historical Commission, the New Jersey Caucus of MARAC, the NJLA's History and Preservation Section, and Rutgers University Libraries Special Collections and University Archives for this recognition. To be named the fifth recipient of an award that honors the memory of New Jersey's greatest State Librarian is far more than I deserve.

I want to take a moment to talk about Roger McDonough, who, although he retired two years before I arrived, left an indelible mark on State government, the State Library and the state's library and history community, and a record of accomplishment matched by few. He presided over a 28-year revitalization and expansion of the State Library as an institution, directed the construction of the current library building in 1964-65, played a key role in New Jersey's Tercentenary and Civil War centennial celebrations, and helped give birth to the New Jersey



Ronald Becker (left) and Karl Neiderer (right)

Historical Commission. During his entire time as State Librarian, the State Archives were under his charge.

Roger's style was hands on, and he loved meeting the public, mingling with legislators, and using his wisdom and prestige to influence the policies of five governors. In fact, in the design of the new State Library in the early 1960s, he purposely situated his office on street level, right off the main lobby. He positioned his office chair so that if you walked through the lobby and his door was open (as it usually was), you could see him working at his desk, call his name, and he'd come out to meet you

Despite retirement, we continued to have dealings many times over the years, as I called him at his home in Princeton to get the *real scoop* on any number of events that occurred during his tenure as State Librarian. He always tried to help me, remembering (perhaps selectively) who was who, who did what, who did whom, and why. I was just a young guy at the time, and it was like getting an audience with the Pope. His willingness to share his great knowledge and wisdom with a novice and comparative "nobody" had a powerful impact on how I have approached public service in my career.

So I thank him for that, as I express my deep gratitude to the members of my incredible staff at the State Archives, who daily work miracles both small and large to elevate our institution, raise the banner of New Jersey's rich history . . . and make me look good enough to receive an award named for Roger H. McDonough.

Save the date

The next meeting of the History & Preservation Section will be on Friday, June 1, 2007. This meeting will be held at Rutgers' Alexander Library on the College Avenue Campus in New Brunswick. More details will follow. http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libs/scua/scua.shtml