

The Chronicle



The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

Recent Exhibits at the Plainfield Public Library

Fall Edition

By: Sarah Hull, Archivist

December 2012-13

Vol. 14 No. 4

Day of the Dead Display

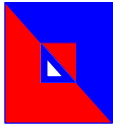


In late October, we invited Mexican born Plainfield resident Maria Pellum to create a lobby wall case display, commemorating the Day of the Dead holiday. We had learned from her, during an oral history taping, the importance of this holiday in Mexican culture. In the home, personal altars are set up, incorporating photographs and objects of loved ones who have passed away.

Maria designed a *Dia de los Muertos* exhibit that creatively combined traditional objects with the profiles of well-known people from Plainfield's past. These colorful and meaningful items included beautifully painted ceramic and sugar skulls, handsome

paper marigold flowers, a candle, perfume, fruit and other symbolic items.

In order to maintain a historical Plainfield perspective, she used pictures of past Plainfield residents. Local History staff prepared images and biographical text regarding members of the library's first board of directors, its namesake benefactor and the city's first mayor, Job Male, as well as eleven notable Plainfield women. Each picture was complemented with an additional image or artifact relating to their own life: their Plainfield residence, a business listing from an old city directory, and a medal of honor.



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Dear History and Preservation Committee,

I have been so involved in writing for the H&P section for the last two plus years I haven't had a chance to be bored. This has been such an adventure and I have learned and been exposed to so much that pertains to archives, history and preservation. Thanks for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to have so much fun. I have been exposed to a world that I only saw in passing through exhibits, museums, art shows and classes, and it has become even more familiar.

I worked with Gary at the Monmouth County Archives and he helped me understand and learn. He taught me the digital side of the environment plus much more. When I edit some of the articles there is so much to learn about the awards offered by the section. The different kinds of archives and history facilities in the state of New Jersey is just phenomenal.

Being able to attend the 2012 Conference with the President of the organization was a wonderful experience. I associated with a really fun and knowledgeable group of presenters. It was so interesting to be involved and get the exposure. I was able to write the newsletter up close and personal. I reiterate I learned so much and it has reinforced my love of human nature, and people like Nancy Madasci, who gave me the opportunity.

My hat is off to the team who are now a part of the editorial staff who will help me with the reviewing and editing of the newsletter: Gary, Paul, and Mary. Thanks so much for your assistance!

To All A Happy & Prosperous Holiday Season. See you in 2013!!!



Eleanor Huxster, former PPL Librarian

History of the Plainfield Public Library Building Exhibit

This past summer, the Plainfield Public Library underwent some renovation and reorganization of its shelves and physical space. We built a new Job Assistance Computer Center to provide a dedicated space with an additional 18 wired computer stations.

Although the Center is primarily for providing job-search training to the unemployed and underemployed, Local History has already used the space for a genealogical workshop and expanded future programming.

To prepare for the building's public re-opening in September, Local History hung 28 photographs in the main reading room documenting the history of the original building, the Carnegie Library, and the current building. In the flat cases, we displayed architectural drawings of the current building in connection with the floor plan changes, and added smaller sized photos and postcards of the past two buildings, as well as the original wood and metal 1886 plaque from the Job Male building. Pictured here is a 1968 photograph of former librarian Eleanor Huxster.



L-R: Ron Becker & Joseph DaRold

Archives Week at Monmouth County Library

Hundreds of people attended four different events at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan, during the second week of October, [events organized by the Monmouth County Archives]. About 100 people attended three mid-week workshops on researching land records and genealogy. On Saturday, October 13, about 300 people attended Archives and History Day, including representatives from 63 different organizations with exhibit tables.

Ron Becker presented the Roger McDonough Award to Joseph DaRold, Director of the Plainfield Public Library. Monmouth County Clerk, M. Claire French, presented the Jane Clayton Award for Monmouth County History to Wayne T. Bell Jr., of the Ocean Grove Historical Society.

The keynote speaker for Archives Week was Michael Adelberg, author of a recent book on the razing of Tinton Falls by Loyalists, during the American Revolution. Attendees had the opportunity to view the Archives' exhibit, *Windows to the Past*, with 40 documents and photographs selected from more than 250 years of records in the Archives.

President's Note: The next meeting of the History & Preservation Section will be on January 10 at the Chester Library. The room will be open at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Immediately following the meeting Debra Schiff, Local History Librarian at Chester, will give a presentation on DACS. Paul Martinez wishes everyone a wonderful Holiday!!!

**Roger McDonough Award Winners PAST & PRESENT
CONGRATULATIONS ON ARCHIVES DAY 2012**



L-R Karl Niederer Roger McDonough Award winner (2006)
Elsalyn Palmisano Roger McDonough Award winner (2003)
Joseph DaRold Roger McDonough Award winner (2012)



Civil War Exhibit

In January 2013, the Friends of the Plainfield Public Library (FOPPL) will be sponsoring a Civil War lecture, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this important event.

During this time, we will be displaying a selection from our seventy original Winslow Homer wood-cut engravings and additional Civil War prints from our bound versions of the 1860's *Harper's Weekly* magazines. To accompany these items in the exhibit, we will display our Civil



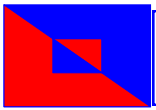
War-era documents and artifacts from our other collections, such as family letters, an 1861 military subscribers list, and historical photographs. The above image of Homer's *The War for the Union—A Calvary Charge* was published in the July 5, 1962 issue of *Harper's Weekly*.

Local People, Local History: How to engage your customers and develop community-based programs and experiences.

by Meagan Denigris, Ocean County Library

Your local residents are your treasures! The challenge is to make them feel comfortable enough to talk about their life experiences. To gain their trust, we are advised to figure out ways to incorporate their stories, and artifacts into the library and then share them with the community.

With more people to serve and less time to spend with each person, it is more challenging for us to make lasting connections and develop meaningful relationships with our community members. However it doesn't mean we should not try! Listening is one of the most important things you can do when you interact with your customers. Even if you just have a few minutes a day, listen to their stories, their goals, their jobs, their family history, etc. As you get to know them, little by little, each time they visit, you will discover their unique perspective and talents. **Cont'd page 7**



Local People, Local History cont'd:

The best projects I've been involved with came about through conversations with people who were not "selling" me a program. They were people who visited the library and wanted to talk. Some people didn't realize that they had something of value to share and others realized it, but didn't have the means to make it happen.

The types of projects that originate in this way take more time to develop because they do not arrive at your doorstep in a ready-made format. You and your team have to start from scratch and build these projects from the ground up. Even though these types of experiences involve more time and creativity, they are incredibly satisfying. In my experience they tend to draw large crowds and build more interest in the community.

One of my favorite stories is when I met a woman at a service desk who engaged me in conversation about a great book she had read. I hadn't read it, so after our conversation, I checked it out. The book was *Sarah's Key*, by Tatiana de Rosnay, which was set during the time of the Holocaust as well as present day. I called the customer to thank her and we had a lovely conversation. She shared with me how people from outside her culture are mostly unaware and uneducated about their beliefs and culture. We discussed this and found a way to create a series of film discussions and talks with people to feel comfortable and experience something new.

I have learned so much about history, culture, people and technology through these projects. Because our customers went out on a limb for us, I too, challenged myself to learn and grow through these experiences. I read and experimented with new technology and stretched my imagination to allow the creative process to take over and see where it would lead us. I never knew exactly where it would lead, but in the end, it was always some place good.

I hope some of these tips and examples will spark your creativity and imagination. Some project examples and how we brought them to life are:

Morro Castle Disaster

<http://www.bit.ly/TyBAai>

1967 Parade Photo Collection

<http://www.bit.ly/RbCzi2>

Create a QR code:

<http://www.qrstuff.com>

[.com](http://www.qrstuff.com)

Hindenburg Crash

<http://www.bit.ly/T5UskL>

Online free graphics: www.morguefile.com /archive
www.flickr.com, <http://picasa.google.com>, [www.wix](http://www.wix.com)



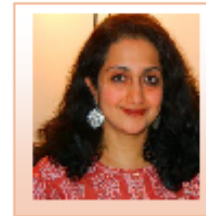
THE NUTLEY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Goos BOLLYWOOD

Monday, December 3 @ 6 p.m.



Join the Monday Night Book Club as they celebrate Bollywood with Indian dance performed by the Arya Dance Academy troupe, followed by a discussion led by author Tejaswini Ganti. Ms. Ganti, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at New York University, is the author of *"Producing Bollywood"* that offers an unprecedented look inside the social and professional worlds of the Mumbai-based Hindi film industry. Learn how the industry became "Bollywood," the global film phenomenon and potent symbol of India as a rising economic powerhouse.



The Library thanks the Friends of the Nutley Free Public Library for helping to make this program possible. The friends support the activities and purposes of the Nutley Free Public Library in enhancing the artistic, cultural, humanitarian, intellectual and literary aspects of community life. Please consider joining the Friends if you haven't already done so.

NUTLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

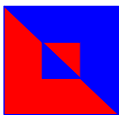
93 BOOTH DRIVE

NUTLEY, NJ 07110

(973)667-0405

<http://nutley.bccls.org>





More News from Chester Library

By: Deb Schiff, Local History Librarian

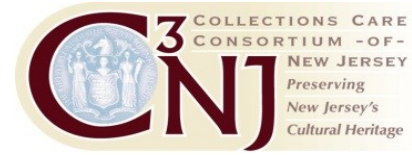
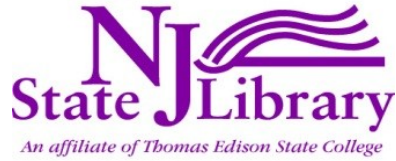
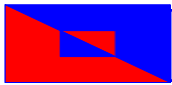
Since the return of the 1860 map from conservation (on the one-year anniversary of the Local History Department's creation), we have had many visitors who have come to examine and photograph the map. On October 26, we held a very — festive and food-filled event to celebrate all the fundraising work of the Friends of the Chester Library, who generously donated the funds for the conservation efforts. The event also coincided with "Friends of the Libraries Week".

On November 3, we hosted retired National Park historian Larry Lowenthal, who spoke to the community on Chester's rail network history. Although Chester's iron mining past required railroads to move the ore through the town, many questions remain about why the rail network took the form it did, as well as how the railroads operated. The program featured many maps and diagrams to illustrate Chester's rail history and point out some of the more troublesome mysteries that persist today. Larry Lowenthal is the author of *Chester's Iron Heyday; Iron Mine Railroads of Northern New Jersey; Morris County Traction Co.*; and many other books on railroads, canals, and the American Revolution. Additionally, Joe Macasek, creator of the graphical data for the program and vice president of the New Jersey Canal Society, and Bill Greenberg, independent historian and Lowenthal's co-author for several books on transportation subjects, were available to answer questions. All three gentlemen were ready to discuss their books and sign copies. The Chester Historical Society provided refreshments.

Recently, we received a scrapbook from the Chester Baseball and Softball Association that contains materials tracing the history of Chester Little League back to its earliest days in 1953. It contains photos, clippings, team rosters, and sponsor lists, among other items. Inside the front cover of the scrapbook were diazo print copies of a model field house, field layout, dugout sent by Little League Inc. to the Chester Little League during its early growth period in the 1960s. The scrapbook has been processed and re-housed, and a finding aid has been created for it here:

<http://chesterlib.com/local-history-room/finding-aids/chesterbaseballandsoftballassociation/>.

An ongoing project is the creation of a vertical file system that documents Chester's more modern history from clippings and select reference materials. The newspaper items have been clipped by past staff members and current volunteers. Once the system is adequately populated, we will be posting a reference list on the Chester Library web site (providing a hard copy to the circulation desk).



Gary Cooper, NJ
State Library

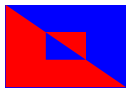
609-278-2640 ext. 108
gcooper@njstatelib.org

New Jersey State Library Awarded IMLS Connecting to Collections Implementation Grant for \$238,755

Trenton, NJ, September 28, 2012 - Thanks to a \$238,755 grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services, the New Jersey State Library will lead a two-year NJ Collections Care Initiative to address urgent collections care needs through educational programs and training. Intended to reach collections care professionals and volunteers, these programs will encourage the use of collections care best practices, support targeted fundraising and marketing, increase the use of existing resources, and accelerate the development of collaborative strategies.

Building on the success of New Jersey's "Connecting to Collections" planning process, the State Library will continue its partnerships with the Connecting Care Consortium of New Jersey, known as C3NJ: the New Jersey State Archives, the Newark Museum, the New Jersey State Museum, the New Jersey Historical Commission and Rutgers University. Through this partnership, known as Connecting to Collections New Jersey, the public will incur long-term benefits through increased accessibility to unique and rare collection materials, improved security of important state collections through disaster planning, and the assurance that the great collections within the state will be preserved for the enjoyment and research needs of future generations.

Through the NJ Collections Care Initiative, traveling full-day educational programs will be delivered to four regions of New Jersey. Four important sites in optimal locations have volunteered facilities to host these programs: the Free Public Library of Hasbrouck Heights (Bergen County), Wheaton Arts & Cultural Center (Cumberland County), Morris Museum (Morris County), and the Monmouth County Archives. These facilities represent the diversity of collecting institutions with a public library, archives center, historic site and a museum.



By presenting these programs in each region, the C3NJ task force will endeavor to attract small organizations that might be unable to invest the time and funding needed to attend programs at a distance.

Under the oversight of the State Library, the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) will manage day-to-day communications, dissemination of information and registration for all the educational programs.

In total, the NJ Collections Care Initiative will present eight traveling educational programs and one state-wide conference. The subject choices for the eight traveling programs reflect the most requested training programs that were ranked on the electronic survey of New Jersey institutions: Best Practices for Preserving Collections; Housing Solutions for Paper-Based Collections; Managing Digital Collections; Fundraising and Promoting Your Special Collections; Caring for Photographs; Archival Management; Collaborative Strategies for Collections Management; and Disaster Planning.

Because disaster planning is a critical need at collecting institutions throughout New Jersey, C3NJ will host a statewide conference that addresses important facets of emergency response and building networks for collaborative mutual aid. Tom Claeson, LYRASIS senior consultant, and Laura Hartz Stanton, CCAHA director of preservation, will take an active role in organizing this special conference, drawing upon their extensive work with various chapters of Heritage Preservation's Alliance for Response Program. Presenters will include first responders and representatives from organizations such as FEMA and the NJ Office of Emergency Management.

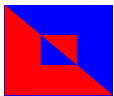
For more information contact Michele Stricker, deputy director of the State Library's Library Development Bureau, at 609-278-2640, ext. 164 or mstricker@njstatelib.org.

About the New Jersey State Library

The New Jersey State Library has three bureaus: the Library Development Bureau (LDB), the NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC) and the State Library Information Center (SLIC). The State Library connects people with information through its service to libraries, government and people with special needs. The State Library, which is affiliated with Thomas Edison State College, coordinates, promotes and funds the New Jersey Library Network, of which we are a proud member. Last year, attendance in New Jersey's public libraries was well over 51 million with total circulation of almost 64 million, an increase of almost 6 million. For more information, visit www.njstatelib.org.

About IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.



SUSAN G. SWARTZBURG PRESERVATION AWARD
NOMINATION FORM

Please complete or prepare facsimile with same information and return by **March 1, 2013**

Created in 2003, the Susan G. Swartzburg Award recognizes a New Jersey Library Association member who, over a substantial number of years, has made exceptional contributions to the awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of archival and library materials in New Jersey. The Award honors the memory of the Rutgers Preservation Librarian whose leadership in New Jersey inspired and influenced many others in our profession, particularly in the areas of preservation and book arts. The awardee is selected by the NJLA History & Preservation Section of NJLA. The award will be presented at the annual NJLA conference in June 2013. A list of past winners is available at:

<http://njla.pbworks.com/w/page/47143445/Susan%20Swartzburg%20Award>

Past nominees are considered for the award but nominators are encouraged to send additional or updated information.

Criteria for the Award:

Leadership. Has demonstrated support for funding of conservation projects; promoting education of conservation issues; and increasing the visibility of archival/history materials.

Creativity. Has developed new and interesting methods of interpretation through exhibits, programs, lectures and publications.

Commitment. Has built an impressive body of work at one or more institutions in the areas of conservation, archives and/or historical fields; has a strong record of participation in NJLA; and has exhibited knowledge of and concern for the basic principles of preservation over time.

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

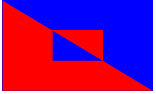
Person making the nomination _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

How does the nominee meet the criteria of the award (attach continuation if necessary)?



**Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award
Nomination Form**

List supporting documents, such as publications, by or about the nominee (attach continuation if necessary or attach resume with this information):

Please return by **March 1, 2013** to: Mary McMahon, Morristown and Morris Township Public Library, to 1 Miller Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 or email to mary.mcmahon@mainlib.org.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Joyce,

I would like to propose the inclusion of a regular column entitled "Exhibit Idea Exchange". This could be similar to the article sent this month by Sarah Hull or something even briefer. The main focus would be to share ideas for exhibits that could be replicated in other libraries. At Plainfield Public Library, the Local History Department creates and installs nearly 100% of the library exhibits, so we are always looking for ideas from other creative people. This might be a way to encourage libraries that rarely send items to "The Chronicle" to submit articles. Regards, Joe DaRold Executive Director, PPL.

P.S. Send the Editor any suggestions and I will share your comments and we will decide where to go from here. Thanks, Joyce



THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

**A COMMUNITY
SING ALONG**



"SONGS OF THE SEASON"

TO BENEFIT THE MANY PUBLIC LIBRARIES AFFECTED BY
HURRICANE SANDY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012 - 11 TO 1 P.M.

\$10.00 MINIMUM DONATION SUGGESTED

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED**

Many of the songs we'll be singing will have the lyrics projected on the Hamilton Library's "Little Theater" screen; very familiar to those of us who remember the "bouncing ball" songs at movie theaters of years past. We will be singing the classic Christmas carols, and music played during the holidays during including wartime Hamilton.

Hamilton Township Public Library
1 Justice Samuel Alito Way
Hamilton, N.J. 08619
For further information, call
609-581-4060 Ext. 4003

Hosted by Tom Glover,
Historian/Archivist at the
Hamilton Township Public Library
Local History Collection