The Chronicle

NEWJERSEY Library Association

The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

Fall 2013 **Volume 15 Number 2**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jessica M. Myers, President NJLA History & Preservation Section

As I write you Archives Month is up and running. In the first three days, I have been to five programs and two exhibits! I would have gone to eleven statewide if I could be in many places at once. As a participant in these programs and spectator of the exhibitions, I am in awe and wonder of your energy and talent.

Archives Month will be behind us when we receive this *Chronicle*, but I know that many history librarians, archivists, and administrators will still be busy writing grant proposals, submitting NJLA conference program proposals, mounting in-house exhibits and preparing for holiday projects. There is plenty more to do.

The holidays are almost here. The winter is a great time to reach out to the people in your communities for support of all kinds. At this time of the year, we all think of giving and sharing. Many of us revel in hearing and recounting stories of the good old days. Often old timers will stop by the library while they are home for family gatherings. Some do not have family left in town but will stop by to see us. Our local history departments hold the keys to memories for our patrons. These could be in the form of antique documents, old maps, yearbooks, or photographs. People come into our departments to visit their fond memories and, in my experience, are delighted to share their stories, photographs, and treasures to illustrate and tell us their histories. Even small exhibits displaying something about our town can spark memories. Show off a few of your holdings and solicit help. This is a perfect time to gather information, learn more about our state, and build our collections. Just listen and ask and remember. Happy holidays. ✶

> **THIS IS A PERFECT TIME TO GATHER INFORMATION, LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR STATE, AND BUILD OUR COLLECTIONS.**

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NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING VIETNAM ERA MUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER

By Mary Hussey, MLIS Candidate, Rutgers University

(l-r) Elsalyn Palmisano, Local History Room Consultant, Long Branch Free Public Library with Sara Cureton, Executive Director, New Jersey Historical Association and Rutgers University SCILS Students Katherine Vander Wende and Mary Hussey ©2013

The New Jersey Historical Commission held their public meeting on Tuesday, September 17, at the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center. This was the third "traveling" meeting, the first two being held at the Tuckerton Seaport on the Jersey Shore, and at the Howell Living History Farm in Titusville.

Sara Cureton discussed the numerous plans for New Jersey's upcoming 350th Anniversary next year. The theme for the year will be ***New Jersey 350: Innovation-Diversity-Liberty***. Sara compared the last anniversary year, the Tercentenary in 1964, and spoke about the many events that occurred that year to educate the public about our state and its great history. A web site, www.officialnj350.com, has been set up that will list events across the state throughout 2014, and welcomes all organizations to post their own New Jersey 350 events to the site. A planning guide and educational resources are among the offerings on the site.

The Grants and Prizes Committee discussed their activities. Holly Metz received the 2013 McCormick Prize for her book ***Killing the Poormaster***. Voting was conducted on the Hughes Award, Awards of Recognition, and the Book Award. The committee voted to publish ten books as a representation of New Jersey's history, with Rutgers Press as the publisher, by October.

Richard Viet of the Programs & Publications Committee discussed new publications, as well as the upcoming NJHC Annual Conference being held November 16th of this year at Rutgers University. Three former governors will be attending the conference titled ***The New Jersey Governor: From the Age of the Town Crier to Twitter***.

National History Day students from Bayonne presented their documentary ***The Radium Girls***. Their teacher spoke of the National History Day Program and thanked the commission for their continued support. Over 125 schools participated in the event, with students in grades 6-12 competing in five different categories.

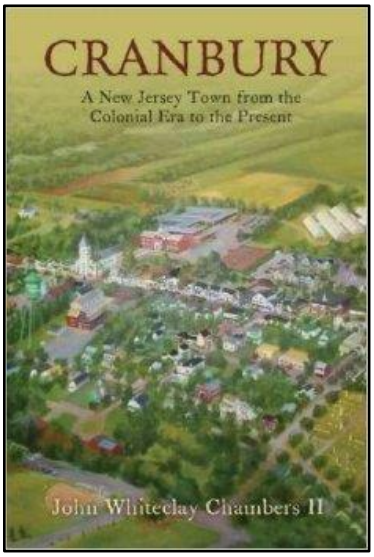
Bill Linderman, Director of the Vietnam Era Museum, spoke about his career and the history of the Memorial and the Museum & Educational Center. He discussed the current project, ***Operation Huey Restoration,*** restoring a UHIH helicopter to be placed at the site.

Vietnam veteran volunteers gave tours of the grounds and the memorial after the close of the meeting. ✶

2013 NJSAA AUTHOR AWARDS

Submitted By Chad Leinaweaver, NJSAA Author Awards Committee Member

Annually, the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance (www.njsaa.org) accepts nominations for materials published in the field of New Jersey studies for its Author Awards. The awards are meant to recognize works that reflect a new understanding of New Jersey's history and culture, demonstrate evidence of original research in the application of New Jersey resources and/or reveal new insights into a topic.



We are proud to announce the winning authors and publications for 2013:

Non-fiction scholarly category:

Holly Metz. ***Killing the Poormaster: A Saga of Poverty, Corruption, and Murder in the Great Depression***, Chicago: Lawrence Hill Books, 2012.

Non-fiction popular category:

John Whiteclay Chambers II. ***Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present***, New Brunswick, N.J.: Rivergate Books, 2012.

Edited works category:

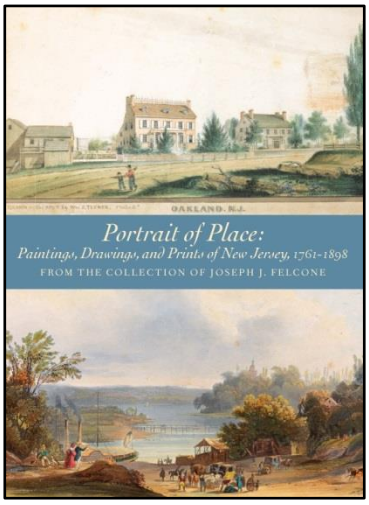
Maxine N. Lurie and Richard Veit, eds. ***New Jersey: A History of the Garden State***, New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2012.

Reference category:

David Martin. ***New Jersey at Gettysburg Guidebook***, Wood-Ridge, N.J.: New Jersey Civil War 150th Anniversary Committee, 2012.

Reproduction of primary sources category:

Joseph J. Felcone. ***Portrait of Place: Paintings, Drawings, and Prints of New Jersey, 1760-1898***, Princeton, N.J.: Morven Museum & Garden, 2012.



The winners will be present at a panel discussion to be held in the Pane Room of Alexander Library at Rutgers University (169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ) on Monday, December 2 at 4:15 pm (preceded at 3:00 pm by a business meeting of the NJSAA). Please join us in hearing about their award-winning works and to congratulate the authors.

Much appreciation goes to all of our nominees for their efforts in spreading the word about the unique and important history within our state. Without their efforts, word about New Jersey's importance in American history is not told.

Sincerely,

NJSAA Author Awards Committee: Ben Beede, Laura Poll, Harriet Sepinwall, Richard Veit, and Chad Leinaweaver ✶

NEW "MUSIC AT RUTGERS AND NEW BRUNSWICK" EXHIBIT AT ALEXANDER LIBRARY

By Kim Adams, New Brunswick Free Public Library

The fall 2013 exhibition, ***On the Banks of the Raritan: Music at Rutgers and New Brunswick***, on view in the galleries on the ground floor and lower

Photo of the Rutgers College Band of 1923; image from Special Collections and University Archives.

level of Alexander Library, examines over a century of New Brunswick's musical landscape. The exhibition features documents, photographs, and artifacts from Special Collections and University Archives and the Performing Arts Library, including the papers of pioneering composer and Rutgers Professor of Music Robert Moevs.

Like many American cities on the main lines of a railroad, New Brunswick's early musical years were marked by a revolving door of traveling performers, community brass bands, notorious buskers like fiddler Jakey Wearts, a handful of musical-appreciation societies and amateur orchestras, church choirs and organists, and a few sheet music and instrument stores. But unlike the average small railroad town in the area, by the late nineteenth century, the city would boast its own Conservatory of Music as well as a beloved state-of-the-art Opera House. By the early twentieth century, New Brunswick would lay claim not only to the largest number of theaters in the state, but the largest manufacturer of musical strings in the world.

In the early twentieth century, the baton passed from *Town to Gown* when the locus of the music scene changed from active city residents and local venues to Rutgers student and faculty musicians, university spaces, and sponsored events. Simultaneously, new technology like movies and the radio downplayed the importance of live music compared to the 1870s when the Opera House was first built.

The Music at Rutgers portion of the exhibit focuses on students and professors who participated in the musical clubs and programs at Rutgers College, New Jersey College for Women (Douglass College), Livingston College, and Mason Gross School of the Arts from 1880 to the mid to late 1980s. Highlighted clubs include the Rutgers College Chapel Choir, Glee Club, and band; New Jersey College for Women's Weeping Willows, Drum Corps, and Voorhees Chapel Choir; Livingston College's Liberated Gospel

Undated photo of the Glee Club, from the University Archives.

Choir and jazz clubs; the various ensembles of Mason Gross School of the Arts, cross-college groups and events including the University Choir, WRSU radio, and the University Concert Series; and music played at dances, athletic events, and other college traditions.

Although the schools of Rutgers University functioned fairly independently for much of this period, this shared interest and passion for music as an activity, entertainment, and tradition united the student body. At Rutgers, music is as rooted in history and tradition as going to a football game, reading the ***Targum***, or singing your Alma Mater at graduation.

On the Banks of the Raritan will be on display in Gallery '50 and the Special Collections and University Archives Gallery in the Archibald S. Alexander Library from October 9, 2013 until January 31, 2014. The exhibition was curated by Flora Boros, Kathy Fleming DC '08, Thomas Izbicki, and Fernanda Perrone. For more information on this exhibition, please contact Fernanda Perrone at hperrrone@rulmail.rutgers.edu or 848-932-6154. ✶

BECOME AGENTS OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Submitted by Frederic C. Pachman, Director, Altschul Medical Library

The journal article "Become Agents of Community Resilience" appeared in the Jul/Aug 2013 edition of ***Information Outlook: The Magazine of the Special Libraries Association***. It discusses the roles of librarians and information specialist in "facilitating emergency preparedness and response." Authors Dan Wilson and Susan Yowell work for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Emergency Preparedness & Response Initiative (NN/LM EP). Find this article with many other publications, conference materials, and stories on ***Librarians and Libraries Respond to Disasters: Bibliography on Library Roles in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery*** webpage from the National Library of Medicine Disaster Information Management Research Center (NLM DIMRC).

Become Agents of Community Resilience: http://nnlm.gov/ep/2013/09/10/article-becoming-agents-of-community-resilience/

NN/LM EP: http://nnlm.gov/ep/

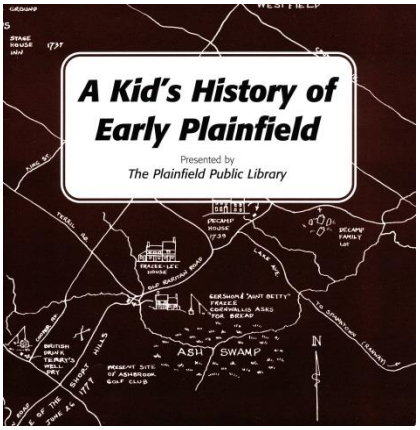
NLM DIMRC Librarians and Libraries Respond to Disasters Bibliography:

http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/bibliography disaster.html/

THE MATCHBOX DIARY: A LOCAL HISTORY PROGRAM FOR KIDS

By Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library

This summer, a local elementary school teacher approached the Local History Department of Plainfield Public Library to find out how we could help her incorporate a local history lesson into the third-grade curriculum.



Local History and Children's staff collaborated to expand a program developed by Janice Peoples, our Children's Librarian. Over 100 third graders, in four groups, visited our exceptional Children's Library. The visits coincided nicely with Archives Month.

Prior to coming in, the children were presented with ***A Kids History of Early Plainfield***, a small book published by the Library back in 2002. This book offers a simple history of Plainfield and is freely downloadable from the Library website (www.plainfieldlibrary.info/).

Once the kids were here, we engaged them in a three-part program of storytelling, an historical artifact display, and a fun craft project – all which related to one of the read stories, ***The Matchbox Diary*** by Paul Fleischman. This is a warm-hearted tale about a grandfather who tells his granddaughter the story of his immigration to America though a variety of interesting mementos he kept in matchboxes.

Local History staff put together a flat-case display of small historical artifacts, ephemera, and photographs, all from local families, which could fit in a match- or cigar box. Among the twenty items on display were a 1920s High School football pin, a 1940s swimming token, two rusty bicycle license plates from 1956, and a 1925 school report card (where the student had failed spelling). The favorite by far was a 1920s photo of Buddy, the Gilman family dog, who was wearing a hat for the picture. I took pictures of all the objects and printed them out as 5" x 7" photos on card stock, so the kids could actually hold and more easily view the artifacts.

Sarah Hull showing case display to one of the third-graders.

The highlight of the history portion came when groups of kids came up to look at the case display and saw the actual items. The kids were excited saying, "There's Buddy!" or My brother plays football!" and "I have a bike too!"

Although there was a considerable amount of prep work involved with this program, it was a lot of fun, and brought history to life in an entertaining, relatable, and educational way.

Sarah is also the editor of this newsletter, and feels no shame (whatsoever) over printing her own article. ✶

BETTE M. EPSTEIN, MCDONOUGH AWARD RECIPIENT

From H-New-Jersey

State Archives Reference Supervisor ***Bette M. Epstein*** is this year's ***Roger McDonough Librarianship Award*** recipient. The award is named for Roger H. McDonough, New Jersey State Librarian from 1947 to 1975. Beginning in 2002 the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, along with the New Jersey Historical Commission, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference New Jersey Caucus, and the New Jersey Library Association History and Preservation Section, has given an award to a librarian or archivist or manuscript curator for excellence in service to the New Jersey history research community and/or the general public. A formal announcement of the award was made at Archives and History Day at the Monmouth County Library on October 12th. Ms. Epstein was presented with the award personally at the meeting of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance on Monday, October 21st at Rutgers Alexander Library.

For nearly four decades, Ms. Epstein has served New Jersey's history and genealogy communities with distinction, becoming something of a legend in her own career.

After receiving her M.L.S. from Western Michigan University, Bette joined the staff of the former Bureau of Archives and History, then part of the State Library, in 1974. She worked as a librarian and then archivist in reference services until the Bureau was split off from the State Library as the Division of Archives and Records Management (DARM) in 1983. During her time in the State Library, she worked with and trained under several well-known reference librarians including Robert Lupp (the first recipient of the Roger McDonough Librarianship Award) who, with Bette, worked for Roger McDonough, namesake

Ron Becker and Bette Epstein

of this award. She acquired extensive knowledge of the State Library's and Bureau of Archives and History's holdings, including manuscript, microfilm, map and reference book collections. This knowledge has aided generations of researchers over the years, and is still an important aspect of the State Archives' institutional memory.

In 1983, Bette assumed oversight of the Reference Unit of the State Archives Bureau, within DARM. In this capacity, she has trained dozens of young librarians, interns and volunteers, inspiring them to pursue careers in New Jersey libraries and archives.

In 1986, she earned an Advanced Certificate in Librarianship from Columbia University. In the late 1990s, Following the relocation of the Archives to 225 West State Street in 2000, Bette was promoted to Supervising Archivist. She is personally responsible, in good part, for the excellent reputation New Jersey State Archives has nationally as a service-oriented

institution. She has aided thousands of historians and genealogists, always going the extra mile to help researchers find elusive information and/or plan their research strategy.

Bette has also volunteered her librarian skills over the years to various organizations, including the Congregation Brothers of Israel and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. ✶

NJLA HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SECTION MEETING

Wednesday, December 4th at 10 AM

Alexander Library, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

To be followed by a Conversation with Fernanda Perrone and Tim Corlis about how the current exhibit *On the Banks of the Raritan: Music at Rutgers and New Brunswick* evolved and was accomplished.

Dr. Perrone (photo) will talk first about how the original exhibit idea began, was culled from Special Collections materials, and how curators were recruited and supervised. Tim Corlis will speak to how the materials were reviewed once they arrived in the preservation lab, how decisions were made concerning condition and hardiness for display, collaborating on display options and the questions about using and making facsimiles. They will both contribute to creating a picture of the challenges that are similar in every exhibit effort and those that were specific to this exhibit. Questions are welcomed with emphasis on whatever the audience is interested in hearing.

The talk will be in the Remigo U. Pane room of the Alexander Library after the regular meeting which begins at 10 am. A tour of the exhibit with Perrone and Corlis will follow the brief discussion and allow for explanation concerning curatorial and display decisions.

WELCOME NEW H&P SECTION MEMBERS

Susan Van Alstyne

Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library

Bryan Eichner, IEEE

Caryn Radick, MARAC Representative and ex-officio board member

FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

What is your library's or archive's most interesting or unusual item or collection? Tell us all about it in the next issue of *The Chronicle*. Include photos! The submission deadline is **January 6, 2014.**

NEW NJLA COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Program committee

Danny Klein, Chair, Vice President, NJLA History & Preservation Section, New Jersey Room Librarian, Jersey City Free Public Library

Tim Corlis, Special Collections, Alexander Library, Rutgers University

Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian, North Jersey History and Genealogy Center

William Fischer, Librarian, Montclair Public Library

Awards committee

Paul Martinez, Chair, Past President, NJLA H&P Section, Cataloging Librarian and Archivist, Montclair State University

Frederic C. Pachman, AHIP, Director, Altschul Medical Library, Monmouth Medical Center

Gary Saretzky, Archivist, Monmouth County Archives

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Member Updates from Across New Jersey

Chester Library – submitted by Debra Schiff, Local History Librarian

Chester Library's latest exhibit, ***Back to School for Chesterites***, spotlights early-to-mid 20th century materials from a newly opened local history collection. The Wyckoff Family Collection contains photographs, legal documents, educational and sporting materials, correspondence, and other items that document more than 150 years of Chester history. The items on display include photographs, school sports team patches, and ephemera such as a 1929 Chester Grammar School commencement invitation.

The Wyckoff Family Collection spans several generations of the Wyckoff and Case families from 1867-2012 (with some gaps). The collection also documents a short period of the Budd family from the end of the 19th century through the beginning of the 20th. The collection is a growing one, thanks to continued donations from Wyckoff descendants. Researchers interested in learning more about the collection can view its description in the illustrated finding aid located at this link: http://chesterlib.com/local-history-room/finding-aids/wyckoff-family-collection-finding-aid/.

Long Branch Free Public Library – submitted by Janet Birckhead, Senior Librarian

The Long Branch Free Public Library is currently running two local history exhibits. In September, the library recognized National Preparedness Month with an exhibit in the case outside the Local History Room. Katey O'Connell curated this exhibit, which included disaster preparedness materials and materials on storms – especially Hurricane Sandy. A newspaper article highlighted the role of a library staff member in assisting patrons with FEMA applications.

In the Meeting Room, ***Looking Beneath the Surface: Trash or Treasure: A Collection of Found Objects***, an exhibit of items collected by Glenn Vogel, has been on display since August. This exhibit, which formerly was on exhibit at the Red Bank Public Library, will continue until October 25th. On October 25, Mr. Vogel is the guest speaker at a meeting of the Long Branch Historical Association. The business meeting starts at 7:00 pm, followed by the speaker at 7:30 pm.

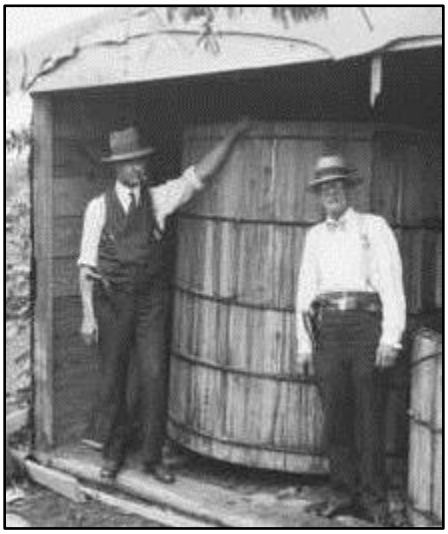
Long Branch Free Public Library (continued) – submitted by Janet Birckhead, Senior Librarian

Another exhibit, ***Antique Long Branch Beer Bottle Collection***, is on loan from Peter and Beth Woolley (left, of the Long Branch Historical Association). This exhibit is a tie-in to Glenn Vogel's presentation for the Long Branch Historical Association, to be held at the Long Branch Free Public Library on October 30th at 7:00 pm. Vogel's presentation is entitled ***Uncorking the Past: Bottles and Brews in Long Branch***.

The November exhibit outside the Local History Room will focus on the Long Branch Newspaper Clipping Collection, a special collection that was developed in house. Library Assistant Christine Crowder has been doing the clipping and filing for many years now and recently updated the finding aid. For this exhibit, Chris will display a selection of the more interesting clippings, in hopes of making more people aware of this collection.

Although it is not really New Jersey history, the library will be observing the anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination with an exhibit of Kennedy memorabilia on loan from our own Tara Sullivan, who works in the Circulation Department. This exhibit will be in the main meeting room.

Monmouth County Archives – submitted by Gary D. Saretzky, Archivist



The catalog for our exhibit, ***The Bootlegger Era: Prohibition in New Jersey***, that began October 1st, has been placed on our website at:

http://co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/9/Prohibition_exhibition_%20FINAL.pdf

A special thank you to the individuals and institutions that contributed to the exhibit!

Printed copies were distributed on Archives and History Day, with a cover not included in the web version (left, photo courtesy of Plainfield Public Library).

The exhibit was on view in the gallery of the Monmouth County Library through the end of October and will hang in the corridor outside the Archives on the lower level of the library until next summer. Several related exhibits were installed in the display cabinets in the lobby of the library for October only.

The annual New Jersey History Game with questions based on the catalog was conducted at Archives and History Day on October 12th.

New Brunswick Free Public Library – submitted by Kim Adams, Archival Librarian

New Brunswick Free Public Library and the New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee are pleased to be able to announce that they are the recipients of a Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History grant for ***Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle***. In the institute's own words:

> To mark the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the National Endowment for the Humanities has developed a special project as part of its ***Bridging Cultures initiative: Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle***. Up to 500 communities across the nation will receive a packaged set of NEH-funded films on Civil Rights history, accompanied by programming resources to guide public conversations about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in U.S. history. The ***Created Equal*** initiative was developed through a partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

For the committee and the library, the grant and films offer an opportunity to explore local aspects of the civil rights movement. The programming associated with the grant will occur in February as part of the annual Black History Month celebration offered by the committee at the library. The initial program and reception will be the first Sunday in February. The committee is currently hoping to collect a panel of civil rights activists from the area to be part of a panel led by a local scholar. The objective is to explore the insight developed over time, to record the local history of the movement and to afford a learning opportunity for those who want to know more.

Potential participants may contact Kim Adams at the New Brunswick Free Public Library 732 745 5108 ext 20.

Plainfield Public Library – submitted by Sarah Hull, Head of Local History

Plainfield Celebrates! is the theme of this year's Plainfield Photography Contest – an annual competition held at Plainfield Public Library since 2007. We used this theme for our promotional lobby case display in October. Forty images and artifacts, dating from the 1890s to 2012, helped illustrate the theme and provided a glimpse of how Plainfielders celebrated family and community events over the years. The main contest exhibition opens on November 2nd and will run through December 31st.

In November and December, the Library will welcome an exhibition by the Temple Sholom of Scotch Plains, ***Temple Sholom: The First Ninety Years in Plainfield***. The Temple is celebrating its centennial this winter. Established in Plainfield on November 3, 1913, the Temple was active in Plainfield for nearly ninety years before moving to Fanwood in 2002. A variety of material will be on display including photographs, prayer books, and some beautiful Temple artifacts. Several items from Plainfield Public Library's own collection will be included. The exhibition will run from November 7th through December 31st.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2013

The Deadline for NJLA conference proposals is NOVEMBER 22, 2013.
Please contact Danny Klein at dklein@jclibrary.org

MARAC FALL CONFERENCE – PHILADELPHIA – NOVEMBER 7-9
11/08 - 8:30 am / NJ Caucus meeting

Nutley Public Library
11/04 - 7 pm / Monday Night Book Club presents Jon Michaud. Mr. Michaud, former Maplewood resident and head librarian at *The New Yorker*, has borrowed elements of local life for his novel *When Tito Loved Clara.*

Plainfield Public Library
11/02 - noon to 2 pm / Photography Contest Exhibition opens. This exhibit runs through December 31, 2013.
11/07 - 6:30 to 8:30 pm / Temple Sholom 100th Anniversary Celebration Exhibit opens. This exhibit runs through December 31, 2013.
11/14 - 10:30 am / Plainfield Public Library Memoir Club meeting

Rutgers University Alexander Library
11/06 - 6 pm / Everyone is invited to a performance of RU Glee Club. Please RSVP by sending an email to events@rulmail.rutgers.edu or calling 848-932-7505.

DECEMBER 2013

NJLA H&P Section Meeting
12/04 - 10 am / Alexander Library, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Plainfield Public Library
12/12 - 10:30 am / Plainfield Public Library Memoir Club meeting

JANUARY 2014

Plainfield Public Library
01/09 - 10:30 am / Plainfield Public Library Memoir Club meeting

FEBRUARY 2014 (Preview)

Disaster Planning (2 part program) – Connecting 2 Collections: A New Jersey State Library Initiative
For more information: http://lss.njstatelib.org/preservation/ccnnj
2/13/2014 (and 4/01/2014) / Millville (Wheaton Arts)
2/20/2014 (and 4/3/2014) / Hasbrouck Heights Public Library