

Summer 2015

Special Collections

Vol. 13, No. 2



Southern New Jersey History Comes Alive at Rowan University

By **Mary Ann Curtis Gonzales**, Curator,
Frank H. Stewart
Room at Campbell
Library, Rowan
University

The Frank H. Stewart Room, located on the fifth floor of Campbell Library at Rowan University, houses artifacts, rare books, genealogies, family papers, and more than 5,000 historic documents.

It is the only comprehensive research collection of southern New Jersey history. Mr. Stewart's collections made up the nucleus of the holdings for many years, but various donations and purchases have been recently added to the room.



The first United States Mint in Philadelphia, purchased by Frank H. Stewart

Frank H. Stewart was born in Salem County, New Jersey, in 1873 and died in 1948. He purchased the property of the first United States Mint in Philadelphia in order to expand

his electrical supply business. He had the old mint building carefully torn down as he preserved its history through photographs, interviews, and notes.

Frank Stewart was also the second president of the Gloucester County Historical Society in Woodbury, New Jersey. He left much of his holdings, then the largest private collection in the state's history, to New Jersey State Teachers College at Glassboro in the form of a bequest upon his death in 1948.

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Discovering Artists' Books at Newark PL

By **Nadine Sergejeff**,
Reference Librarian,
Newark Public Library

The Special Collections Division at The Newark Public Library traces back to 1902, when the institution's second director, John Cotton Dana, created a circulating collection of illustrations. Over time, the collection grew both in size and in scope as a result of forward-thinking acquisitions and generous donations.

The collection today features an array of works on paper that are intended to promote the study of graphic arts including fine prints by

Rembrandt, Lichtenstein, Picasso, and other renowned artists, as well as New Jersey iconography; photographs; posters; rare books; greeting cards; hundreds of shopping bags from around the world; artists' books; and more.

The Special Collections Division has established a relationship with researchers, artists, and educators in Newark and beyond. A short time ago, the department welcomed 25 students enrolled in a book arts course at Rutgers University-Newark who were eager to explore our collection of artists' books.

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Message from the PRESIDENT



Looking Back on the Year

As my presidential year draws to a close, I would like to say what a pleasure and honor it has been to serve as NJLA president. Libraries are important to me—very important. I cannot even begin to express the privilege it has been to serve and advocate for New Jersey libraries.

What libraries do—and do every single day—is profoundly important to their communities, yet so simple in execution that even we, as the people who work in them, forget how essential they are. We get bogged down in the details and the problems. We sometimes don't see the forest for the trees.

We need to remember that no one else does what we do for our communities. We serve our communities as a whole. We serve all of the smaller communities within our larger community. Our service is not about a demographic, it is about the whole population and their informational needs.

My service this year to NJLA was about the whole too—the whole of library service in New Jersey. My hope was to shed more light on our libraries, to bring what we do out of the dark shadows of the stacks. Library supporters know us and love us and that is good. But many don't understand us or what we do. We have all heard the cliché, "Why do we need libraries when we have the Internet?"

#LibrariesOnTheEdge was a way to bring more visibility to libraries. Many of you used that hashtag this year and if you search it, and variations on it, you will see some of the great things our New Jersey libraries did this year. Libraries were on the edge of funding,

creativity, technology, information, and community. My hope is that this momentum of visibility will continue.

Social media makes promoting libraries so much easier than it was in the past. Information is pushed out to our patrons via their news feeds. We don't need to wait for them to visit our websites or read our newsletters. They are getting the information as we put it out. It is alive and current and relevant.

Social media also allows libraries to support each other in ways we never have been able to do before. We can "like," "follow," "share"—or whatever term is used—each other's social media sites and posts. This is not only a nice thing to do, it also raises the visibility of that site and will help raise the visibility of libraries as a whole.

During the conference we used #NJLA15. Search that hashtag. It will give you a feel for the excitement of the conference, as well as a glimpse of the great programs that people attended.

Creating a hashtag for an event promotes visibility and not only engages the people at the event, but also allows people who cannot attend feel as if they are a part of the event. Being part of the event and being part of New Jersey libraries is something we all should try to make trend.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to be your president. I think it is fitting this issue is about special collections. I believe all of our New Jersey libraries are special collections in their own way. Each library perfectly represents the community it serves. No two are alike.

And thank you to all of the wonderful people I have worked with this year: Pat, from whom I have learned so much; the NJLA Executive Board, for their dedication; the Conference Committee, for a phenomenal conference; the committee chairs, for their leadership; the committees, sections, and roundtables, for their hard work; the NJLA office staff, who do everything; the membership, for their enthusiasm; and all of the Libraries On The Edge, who make being a librarian the best job in the world.

Terrie McColl

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Mission Statement of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter

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Editorial Statement of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter

The *New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter* shall provide news of NJLA and information about statewide, regional, and local library activities.

News shall be as current as possible within the constraints of the publication schedule and the publication will serve as an archival record of significant and lasting library issues and topics.

The *New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter* shall provide reports from officers, committees, roundtables, sections, and other units of the NJLA.

It shall also publish reports on trends and practices in the library profession and articles on topics of interest to the New Jersey library community. Ephemeral issues and time-sensitive topics will be covered in the Listserv or the association website.

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Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking Out Toward the Future

An NJLA conference always leaves me energized. You can feel the excitement of hundreds of librarians as they are introduced to new ideas and they begin thinking about how to implement them in their libraries.

I thought this year's conference was especially insightful because of two speakers who shared with us their vision of the changing role of libraries and how we can create an expanded role for libraries in the future. These two speakers stressed very similar themes.

First was Rich Harwood from the Harwood Institute. Rich has been involved with many organizations helping communities design local conversations focused on long-term change. His key message is that for true change, members of organizations (including librarians) must look "outward" to their communities.

"Turning outward" is a step-by-step process developed by the Harwood Institute. The method has been described as a process for "taking steps to better understand communities; changing processes and thinking to make conversations more community-focused; being proactive to community issues; and putting community aspirations first."

Rich was truly inspirational—that's what keynote speakers do—but for real change, our librarians need to embrace Rich's message and practice his ideas in our own communities.

Rich has recently been involved in a project with the American Library Association called Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC), which seeks to strengthen librarians' roles as core community leaders and change agents. ALA states that the goal of LTC is to:

"Help libraries become more reflective of and connected to their communities and achieve a domino effect of positive results, including stronger relationships with local civic agencies, non-profits, funders, and corporations, and greater community investment in civility, collaboration, education, health, and well-being. ALA also hopes to shift public discourse away from past themes about libraries in crisis and toward talk of libraries as agents of positive community change."

ALA has developed an extensive website with tools to assist librarians in adapting the Harwood method to their own communities, including a "Step-By-Step Guide to 'Turning Outward' To Your Community."

This guide can be downloaded for free from the ALA website (www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/sites/ala.org.transforminglibraries/files/content/LTC_TurnOutward_0.pdf). ALA is also working with librarians from 10 public libraries who will participate in an 18-month project using the Harwood techniques in their own communities.

The second speaker I want to mention is Amy Garmer, author of the Aspen Institute publication "Rising to the Challenge." Amy was the guest of State Librarian Mary Chute.

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Note from the EDITOR

Brave New Librarians

In his conference keynote, Jason Griffey told us about some exciting (and scary!) future technologies, including drones, self-driving cars, and artificial intelligence. The future he speaks of sounds so far off, but thanks to existing products such as Amazon Echo (a voice command device with the ability to play music, obtain information, and control smart devices; see www.amazon.com/oc/echo/), we may be feeling the impact of this future on libraries sooner than we think.

During his talk, Griffey predicted that when such products become commonplace, reference services will be the first thing to go in libraries. Of course, people said the Internet would make librarians obsolete and we're still here, so who knows? Like the Internet, Echo and other devices may actually benefit libraries and coexist peacefully with librarians in the future.

With this newsletter issue in the works, Griffey's talk made me reflect on the future of collections. How will collection developers and archivists benefit from these burgeoning technologies? What new challenges will they face? Will we even have a need for them once everything under the sun is digitized or made into a hologram? Will they thrive or go the way of the reference librarian in Griffey's prediction?

In addition to those questions, the keynote mainly left me with concerns regarding privacy, information and technology access, and other ethical issues. We have a lot to think about and consider—as librarians and as a society—as our technology rapidly advances. (By the way, for a fantastic and terrifying fiction read that explores some of these themes, check out Dave Egger's "The Circle.")

Ultimately, I'm not worried about a future without libraries, because the need for human interaction and shared learning experiences will never go away. I'm also not concerned about a future without librarians—in this brave new world, our society will need librarians more than ever to navigate the tricky, unknown paths ahead.

Megan McCarthy

Lending American Girl® Dolls at Cherry Hill PL

By **Alia Shields**, Youth Services Librarian, Cherry Hill Public Library

American Girl® dolls bring history to life. They encourage kids to imagine themselves in other times and cultures. They are also really expensive. One historic American Girl® doll costs over \$115. Often, we would see girls checking out the American Girl® books, dreamily talking about which doll they wished they owned.

Parents, meanwhile, stood behind them shaking their heads. Then we read about libraries in Arlington, Virginia, circulating American Girl® dolls. Wouldn't it be nice, we thought, if all our patrons could have the opportunity to take home a doll, just for a little while?

Getting Started

Through lending American Girl® dolls, we wanted to do more than provide a doll—we wanted to create a learning experience. Part of the enduring appeal of American Girl® dolls is the way they teach American history through play.

To extend that learning to local history, we created a local history newsletter detailing life in Cherry Hill during each doll's era. We also wanted kids to be able to share what they were doing with the dolls. Each doll, we decided, should have a journal, and we would encourage kids to write and draw their adventures in them.

The initial challenge we encountered was how to get the dolls for the kits. We put out a call for donations, hoping for some gently used dolls that were no longer being played with at home. We also reached out to American Girl®, requesting a donation.

It was a long shot, and our request was not granted. For a while, nothing happened. Purchasing the dolls on our own, through our materials budget, was problematic because American Girl® does not accept purchase orders.

Then a very generous patron donated a brand new Julie doll, whose character is from 1974. Another donated a gently used Molly (1944). Our Friends group funded the acquisition of two more dolls, Addy (1864) and Rebecca (1914). Thus, the Cherry Hill Public Library's American Girl® doll lending program was born.

How It Works

Cherry Hill Public Library's American Girl® doll kits consist of a historical American Girl® doll and a carrying case that includes a doll bed, the first book in the doll's series, a jour-

nal for patrons to record their time with the doll, and a newsletter depicting life in Cherry Hill during the doll's era. The kits, which must be checked out and returned to the Youth Services desk, can be checked out for one week. They can be put on hold, but they are not renewable.

The Contract

One of the biggest concerns when starting the American Girl® doll collection was what would happen if a doll were lost or damaged. Would people balk at the hefty replacement fee? Would monitoring the dolls put undue stress on our circulation department?

We decided that the Youth Services department would be solely responsible for the checkouts of the dolls and created a loan contract that clearly outlines the patron's responsibilities, late fees, and any replacement costs.

Patrons acknowledge that they are responsible for the doll and all of the items in the kit, and that there will be charges for any missing items or accessories.

Should they fail to return the kit, they will be charged a replacement fee of \$135.00. The contract also outlines instructions for caring for the dolls. We encourage patrons to write in the doll's journal and style her hair.

We also provide cleaning instructions, just in case. The loan contract has been essential to keeping the kits intact and in excellent condition. Reviewing all the items in the kit with patrons before checkout has prevented loss and made the lending program sustainable.

Program and Partnership Opportunities

It was important to us to tie the American Girl® kits in with our library programming. When we released the first three kits last June, we hosted an American Girl® Tea Party to kick off our lending program.

Close to 50 girls turned out for era-appropriate crafts, tea, and cupcakes. In December, we had an American Girl® Holiday Extravaganza, featuring holiday traditions from different eras and cultures. Again, the turnout was high, and it built further interest in our lending program.

For the first year of the American Girl® lending program, we have been largely focused on integrating the collection into our library programming.



Cherry Hill PL's Josephina American Girl® doll kit features a Josephina book, journal, a newsletter depicting life in Cherry Hill during the 1820s, and more.

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Back to High School at Red Bank PL

By **Lisa Iannucci**, Librarian, Red Bank Public Library

Our small library plays a vital and multi-faceted role in Red Bank, a town with a rich history dating back to the pre-revolutionary period.

In fact, the library building that we call home is the Sigmund Eisner Mansion, itself a key component in that history as it was once the primary residence of the Eisners, a family whose story is inextricably linked to America's ascendance to world economic and political power. In 1937, the Eisner family deeded their former residence to Red Bank for use as a library, a transaction that obligates us to operate within specific guidelines.

It was the family's intent to have the building play the role of museum as well as library, so when the Red Bank Historical Society folded due to lack of funding and support, the natural repository for its collections was the Eisner Mansion.

Archival materials, including artifacts, postcards, yearbooks, oral histories, and an extensive and diverse array of historical photographs, became the core of the library's New Jersey History Collection. Director Elizabeth McDermott has long been the guiding force behind the support and promotion of this collection as a museum, research center, and repository of Red Bank history.

Budget Woes Hit Red Bank

As emphasized in the spring issue of the New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter, libraries always seem to be under budgetary pressure. Last year, Red Bank Public Library suffered cut-backs from both state and local funding, which forced us to make difficult choices that affected all areas of our operation, including collections, programming, and special services.

When our New Jersey History Room fell victim to these budget constraints, our public lost access to its many collections, such as memorabilia and business records related to the Eisner Uniform Company.

Fortunately, the library was able to create semipermanent displays and special exhibits showcasing some of our



Red Bank PL's digitization project includes yearbooks from the local high school dating as far back as 1927.

historical collection—not only in our own building, but also at Red Bank Borough Hall and online. We often solicited public input (e.g., asking patrons if they could help us identify people in old photos), but we needed to do more.

Going Digital

With the physical contents of the New Jersey History Room largely inaccessible, we started looking for ways to provide virtual access via digitization. We decided it would be in our best interest to digitize items that are visually appealing and to which patrons feel a personal connection.

Last year our director initiated the plan to work with Innovative Document Imaging (IDI) (www.idiimage.com) to digitize a number of Red Bank Regional High School (RBRHS) (www.rbrhs.org) yearbooks from our local history collection. With the support of our administration and funding from our Friends organization, we were able to submit to IDI a total of 40 books spanning the period from 1927 to 1980.

This range of materials was selected in order to engage active members of the RBRHS alumni association and include some of our older, more fragile materials. By late May, we were able to get the yearbooks uploaded to our website (www.redbanklibrary.org). We were also able to partner with IDI on file hosting through their Digifind-It software.

We hope that this accessibility will entice our community to want to see more. We plan to digitize other items that strongly connect with patrons, including more yearbooks, historical images of Red Bank, and personal photographs.

With both time and money in limited supply, we see digitization as a cost-effective tool to drive both physical and virtual traffic to our library and its special collections. Digitization makes collections easily discoverable and accessible, both preserving and making holdings more attractive and usable by patrons who might not have the time or inclination to visit the library in person. The searchability features of digital imaging makes access unintimidating for less tech-savvy patrons, and the ability to view familiar faces and places is indeed a huge draw.

We are also encouraging RBRHS to link their alumni website (www.rbrhs.org/alumni) to our library website, and vice versa.

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The New Jersey History Room at Red Bank PL

NJCAR: A Resource For Libraries

By **Michele Stricker**, Associate Director, Library Support Services, New Jersey State Library



Members of the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response

The New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR) is a network of organizations, associations, agencies, and persons dedicated to safeguarding the cultural heritage of New Jersey. Through communication and training, the alliance empowers New Jersey's cultural community to preserve assets and sustain operations before, during, and after disasters.

Purpose and Function

NJCAR's primary aims are to prevent and mitigate the loss of cultural and historic resources in the event of a disaster and to serve as a statewide resource. The functions and duties of NJCAR are to engage in the following activities:

- Conduct regular steering committee meetings to address pertinent issues regarding emergency preparedness and response
- Hold regular meetings for the membership to provide the opportunity for networking and education and plan future events and programs
- Maintain a database of members with current contact information and a detailed list of experts and services related to emergency response for collections, facilities, and other needs
- Provide, promote, and facilitate information exchanges, training, exercises, and educational opportunities related to emergency preparedness and response for cultural and historic resources
- Provide remote and onsite (if possible) assistance to natural, cultural, and historical organizations or history, cultural, and creative professionals who experience an emergency or disaster
- Partner with other organizations and communities that have similar interests

History

In 2012, Regional Emergency Response Networks (RERN) project provided 10 weeks of training to prepare staff to handle anything from small in-house emergencies to knowing what to do in the event of a large-scale disaster. The training, taught by Tom Clareson, senior consultant for Digital & Preservation Services at LYRASIS, the nation's largest library and cultural heritage network, took place in Atlantic and Cape

May counties, and was funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access grant.

The State Library took that training statewide with the first "Ports in a Storm" Summit in April 2013, bringing together emergency planning experts, librarians, first responders, public health workers, community and faith-based groups to build community partnerships and to provide a forum for discussing roles libraries and information professionals can play in supporting future disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Later that month, representatives from five of New Jersey's state cultural agencies participated in Heritage Preservation's first State Heritage Emergency Partnership forum, a 2-day event that fostered a preparedness dialogue between state cultural agencies and their emergency management agency.

In addition, several groundbreaking meetings occurred with the NJ Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the NJ State Library, NJ State Museum, NJ State Arts Council, NJ State Archives, NJ Historical Commission, and the State Office of Preservation, which led to the creation of the NJ Cultural Alliance for Response.

The collaboration created a firm bond between all the agencies, resulting in the creation of a Statewide Preparedness Network, a tour of the NJ State Police Regional Operations and Intelligence Center in Trenton, and meetings at the FEMA Sandy Recovery Office and the State Library. Future plans include regional workshops in disaster planning, an Incident Command System, social media for disaster response, and hands-on disaster recovery training for cultural materials.

Upcoming Programs

Disaster Response and Recovery: A Hands-on Intensive Program

Thoughtful preparation for an emergency or disaster is one of the most important steps that a cultural institution can take to safeguard collections. This day-long program will increase practical knowledge through hands-on salvage of a simulated disaster. Participants will use the Incident Command System while learning to salvage a variety of materials, including paintings, wooden furniture, glass/metal/ceramic objects, textiles, paper, photographs, and books. Knowledge of basic salvage techniques and/or prior attendance in a collections-oriented emergency response workshop is encouraged. Registration is limited to 20 people. Look for registration details soon.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

July 15, 2015
Bergen County

July 22, 2015
Camden County

New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response Statewide Summit

September 9, 2015
Venue: TBD

For further information and By Laws see: www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/disaster_planning/new-jersey-cultural-alliance-response/ or contact Michele Stricker at mstricker@njstatelib.org.

Southern New Jersey History Comes Alive...

Stewart Room Usage

The Stewart Room's patrons include students, professors, authors, genealogists, historians, and other researchers. Visits are by appointment only.

Internship, Senior Seminar, and volunteer students gain valuable knowledge while working in the Stewart Room. Many students use this experience to add to their graduate applications. Institutional Work Study and Federal Work Study positions are also available. Our student workers are known here as student archivists because they are well-trained in different aspects of the collections, including preservation. Orientations are also given to history students as well as other interested groups.

"The Secret History of the First U.S. Mint: How Frank H. Stewart Destroyed and Then Saved a National Treasure" is the most recent publication that references the Stewart collection. It was published in 2011 by Whitman Publishing and was written by Joel J. Orosz and Leonard D. Augsburger.

The Collections

More than 16 collections are now housed in the Stewart Room, including:

- First United States Mint Collection, which includes photographs, documents, and artifacts
- Tighe Collection of 19th and early 20th century children's storybooks
- Genealogies
- Deeds, including Native American deeds
- Manumission papers
- "Minutes of the Stamp Act Congress of 1765," owned by Delaware delegate Caesar Rodney
- Elizabeth Haddon's "Minutes of the Haddonfield Women's Meeting, 1765-1776"
- A presidential signature collection, along with signatures of other notable people
- 1967 World Summit Collection from the meeting that was held at Hollybush Mansion on the campus of Glassboro State College between Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin and President Lyndon Baines Johnson
- Early American, New Jersey, and regional history
- Rowan University Archives

Holdings of Interest

The Underground Grammarian: An Occasional Journal. This complete set of entertainingly written newsletters was authored by the late Glassboro State College English Professor Richard Mitchell to provide opinion and criticism on the popular incorrect usage of the English language. The notoriety of *The Underground Grammarian* led to Mitchell's appearances on television's "The Johnny Carson Show." The newsletters ran from the late 1970s to 1992.

Marvin C. Creamer Circumnavigation of the Globe Star Collection. Dr. Creamer was a former geography professor at Glassboro State College. He is still the only person to have circumnavigated the world in a sailboat without the aid of navigational equipment. His voyage on the *Globe Star* began on December 21, 1982, and ended on December 17, 1984, for a total of 510 days at sea. This collection consists of journals, papers, and photographs.

James W. Gandy Collection of Oberlin Smith/Ferracute Arti-

facts, Books, and Papers. Mr. Smith (1840-1926) is credited as being the inventor of the magnetic recorder. He also built Ferracute, a metal pressing plant in Bridgeton, New Jersey. This business made presses for minting coins in China, among other metal devices.

Papers of Leo C. Beebe. Mr. Beebe (1917-2001) worked for Ford Motor Company as an executive in marketing and planning. He also directed Ford's motor sports program, organized and directed the resettlement of Hungarian refugees at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey, organized the U.S. Center for Cuban Refugees in Miami, and headed the National Alliance of Businessmen at the request of President Lyndon B. Johnson and Henry Ford II. Mr. Beebe became the first dean of the College of Business Administration at Rowan University.

Our school yearbooks are also online and can be accessed by visiting the following link: <https://archive.org/details/rowanuniversitylibraries>.

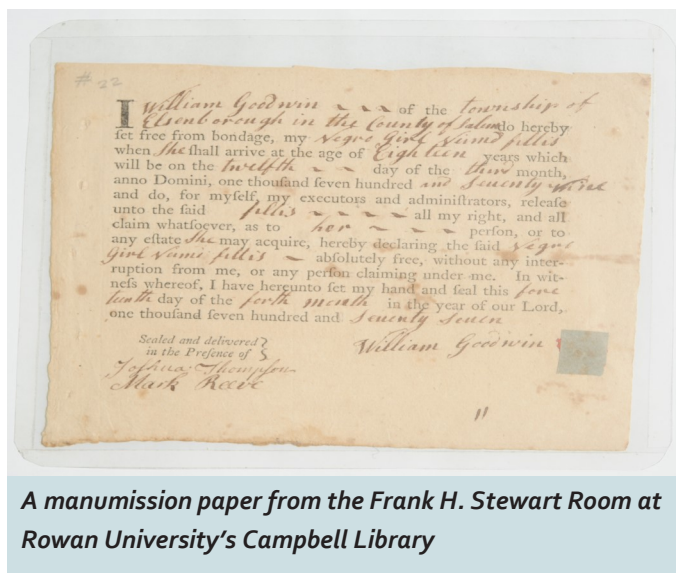
Looking to the Future

Currently there is a full-time curator and one part-time staff member working in the Stewart Room. There are also two student archival assistants. The staff is currently working with PastPerfect 5.0 Museum Software to inventory the collections in a more efficient manner.

As the collections continue to grow, a search for a librarian archivist with digital experience is underway. With this addition to our library family, we hope to bring the collections to university-level standards and provide wider access to important holdings.

Lack of space has been (and continues to be) a problem for housing our collections. Many of our holdings are in archival boxes packed away in other areas of the library. We will soon be seeking grants to make these documents available for patron research. We recently hosted a visit by a member of the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) survey team. The resulting report will hopefully validate the needs of our many collections and help us obtain the funding we require to improve the space and expand our staff.

Mary Ann Curtis Gonzales, Curator of the Frank H. Stewart Room, started working for Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) in 1977 and became head of the Stewart Room in 1994. During her tenure, she has secured an endowment for a future gallery and brought major collec-



A manumission paper from the Frank H. Stewart Room at Rowan University's Campbell Library

While the visit provided inspiration for all of the students (they needed to design their own artist's book for their final project), I greatly appreciated the way they inspected the books, and I could see them reflecting and creating mental notes. It was most rewarding when the professor, who is an artist/photographer and has been instrumental in raising awareness toward the arts in Newark, asked each student to explain why a particular book was his or her favorite.

The collection grew steadily until we faced and endured budgetary shortfalls during the last several years. Subsequently, some artists have opted to donate books so that the collection can continue to be enhanced.

You may be wondering: what exactly is an artist's book? There is not one standard definition. It would be acceptable to say that it is a work of art realized in the form of a book. Or, that it is a booklike work made by an artist.

This form of art gained attention during the conceptual art movement in the 1960s–1970s when artists began to construct a more portable type of art that could be shared easily and produced inexpensively.

This endeavor was also a way to bypass the art world establishment. During this time period, there was much enthusiasm and experimentation, the introduction of new formats, and the availability of new technology (e.g., computers, photocopiers).

Books made by artists are either one of a kind or are limited to a small edition. They are fabricated step-by-step by an artist from a concept into a finished product. Many challenge conventional book design.

Examples in our collection include vinyl records, works on glass, sculptural books, a book inside a ukulele or within a shoe, etc. Some are even interactive and can spin like a carousel. They provide an outlet to convey ideas that cannot always be expressed on a canvas or in a photograph. Whether simple or complex, the artist's book presents a narrative and relies on participation with its audience.

Artists' books can be unusually crafted and can be symbolic or emotional, or can communicate a deep message. For ex-

The small volume includes six poems composed by Sára Karig, a precinct captain in Budapest who discovered and reported election fraud and was unjustly sent to Vorkuta, a labor camp, for 7 years.

The Newark Public Library began acquiring artists' books inadvertently in the 1970s as other institutions began to offer us some of their holdings. Interesting to note, we were given the collected works of Dieter Roth, a Swiss artist who is regarded to be the pioneer of the modern artist's book, by an institution that called to offer us a series of works by Diderot (they mistakenly thought the collection contained Denis Diderot's encyclopedias).

Only the most recent acquisitions are reflected in our online catalog, so a future project would entail cataloguing the entire collection. When we first began acquiring them, the supervisor of the department designated a specific call number for the collection.

Another challenge is storage—several are large (e.g., the ukulele) and need to be boxed. Likewise, the smaller and miniature works are stored within a collection of larger boxes, marked A-Z, and organized by the artist's name.

Over the years, the items have been placed on exhibit at the library or have been loaned to other institutions. Most recently, we celebrated New Jersey's 350th anniversary and featured one of our artist's books, "New Jersey Sights and Sounds with a Pop, a Push, a Peep" (Book Arts Roundtable, 2009), a creative and entertaining pop-up collection of vignettes about the state.



Examples of artists' books from Newark PL

Researchers can request to see the artists' books, or any other items in The Newark Public Library's Special Collection Division by appointment. It is truly an exciting array of materials and I feel fortunate to work with such treasures.

Nadine Sergejeff is a Reference Librarian at The Newark Public Library. She holds a B.A. in Fine Art from The College of New Jersey in Ewing Township, an M.A. in Museum Professions from Seton Hall University in South Orange, and an M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She works in the General Reference Division where she enjoys working on art-related statewide reference questions and also maintains the Special Collections Division. Her email address is nsergejeff@npl.org.



(Continued from page 4)

Lending American Girl® Dolls at Cherry Hill PL



A young patron holds Julie, one of the dolls in Cherry Hill PL's American Girl® collection available for borrowing.

We have also been exploring ways to form partnerships with community groups—for example, the American Girl® kits have provided us with the opportunity to form a partnership with the Cherry Hill Township Historical Commission, which provided us with photos and maps of historic Cherry Hill, as well as valuable information about the township's history. We compiled these details into the local history newsletter that circulates with our kits.

Challenges

Our biggest challenge resulted from having a relatively small collection of American Girl® kits and high demand for them. Given the long hold list for the dolls, we quickly realized we had to manage the expectations of a very excited group of patrons. The patrons needed to understand our new collection and be taught how it works. This is why it was so important to make sure that our department staff was also well trained in all of the procedures for the American Girl® lending program.

Starting Your Own

Starting an American Girl® doll loan program at your library is possible. The important thing is to know your community and its needs. Do you have low-income patrons for whom these toys would otherwise be out of reach? Is your library in an area with a rich local history? Do you serve a multicultural population looking to see themselves reflected in the stories we tell?

All these different needs can be met through American Girl® doll kits. There may be some challenges along the way, but seeing the excitement and joy on kids' faces when they get to take home a doll makes it all worthwhile.

Alia Shields is a Youth Services Librarian at the Cherry Hill Public Library. She holds an M.L.I.S. from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She started the American Girl® doll lending program at her library and presented on non-traditional library collections during the 2015 NJLA Conference. Her email address is ashields@chplnj.org.

(Continued from page 3)

Looking Out Toward the Future

"Rising to the Challenge" is described as "a year-long exploration and examination of the challenges and opportunities facing communities and their public libraries as society moves deeper into the digital age." "Rising to the Challenge" can be downloaded for free from the Aspen Institute website (<http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/documents/AspenLibrariesReport.pdf>).

In many ways the Aspen Institute report reaches similar conclusions as the Harwood Institute. The Aspen Institute report states "public libraries that align their people, place, and platform assets and create services that prioritize and support local community goals will find the greatest opportunities for success in the years ahead. What libraries need is to be more intentional in the ways that they deploy resources in the community, and more deeply embedded in addressing the critical challenges facing the community."

The Aspen Institute publication also looks at the three key groups that are necessary for making our libraries relevant in the 21st century and provides discussion questions for each group. These questions provide an excellent outline to start discussions on the local level.

Conference presentations are often inspirational but frequently the messages fade as the everyday reality of our work overcomes us. I think, however, the 2015 NJLA Conference has given us two very compelling reports that the library community needs to embrace if we are to remain relevant to our communities and be prepared for the future.

Pat Tumulty

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People & Places Around the State

Honors, Awards, and Recognition



Tonya Badillo

Tonya Badillo, Director of the Long Branch PL, participated in a panel on racial equity convened by the American Psychological Association and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration in Washington, D.C.

Jayne Beline, Director of the Parsippany PL, was honored by the community for her 25 years of service to the library. The community even proclaimed February 24, 2015, as Jayne Beline Day.

The Technology Committee of NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ announced

Bergen Community College its 2015 Technology Innovation Award winner for the BCC Library App.

Samantha Gale, Programming Coordinator at the Somerset County Library System, received the Somerset County Government Professional Achievement Award in February.

Northvale PL is the state's newest municipal library.

Jane Johnson Otto, Scholarly Open Access Repository Librarian at Rutgers University Libraries, is the winner of the 2015 NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Research Award for her publication "University Faculty Describe Their Use of Moving Images in Teaching and Learning and Their Perceptions of the Library's Role in That Use," found in *College & Research Libraries*, 75 (2), 115-144.

Taras Pavlovsky, Dean of the Library at the College of New Jersey, is the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Service Award granted by the NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ.

Vincent Pelote, Interim Director for the Institute of Jazz Studies, received the Jazz Advocate's Award from the New Jersey Jazz Society.

Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies Library won a 2015 Carnegie Whitney Grant from ALA to complete a project entitled "R4R: Reading for Recovery."

Appointments and Elections

Tricina Beebe has moved from the Camden County Library System to a position as a school media specialist in Burlington County.

Nancy Cohen was appointed Director of the Old Bridge PL.

Marie Coughlin is the new Executive Director of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS).

Robert Egan, Head of Technical Service at Raritan Valley Community College, was elected Academic Chair in the library.

Evalina Erbe was hired as Director of the South River PL. She is the former director of the Jamesburg PL.

Mina Ghajar was hired as Information and Education

Librarian at Rutgers University Libraries, George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences.

Sarah Jewell was hired as Information and Education Librarian at Rutgers University Libraries, George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences.

Kathy Juliano of Drew University was appointed to the position of Electronic Resources Management Librarian.

T.J. Lamanna has joined the Cherry Hill PL as an Adult Services Librarian.

Mary Marks is now Coordinator of Clinical Affairs and Experiential Education at the School of Pharmacy, Fairleigh Dickinson University. She was formerly Associate University Librarian at the same institution.

Amanda Mita joined Seton Hall University Libraries as Librarian/Archivist in Special Collections.

Ellen O'Keefe is the new director of the Northvale PL.

Claire Schneider has joined the Cherry Hill PL as an Adult Services Librarian.

Heidi Schwab was hired as Emerging Librarian/Program Coordinator at the Hoboken PL. She is formerly of the Morris-town & Morris Township PL.

Resignations/Retirements



Joseph Da Rold

Valerie Bell has retired from the Ocean County Library System.

Joseph Da Rold will retire as Director of the Plainfield PL in August 2015.

Peggy Norris has retired from the Ridgewood PL.

Cheryl O'Connor will retire as Executive Director of LibraryLinkNJ in September 2015.

Deaths



Lynne Olver

Dr. Louise Miller, a media specialist who taught at Rutgers and Kean Universities, passed away in February.

Patricia Nivison, former Director of the Franklin Township Library, passed away in February. She was very active in NJLA for many years.

Lynne Olver, Director of Morris County Library, passed away April 14. Her obituary may be viewed here: www.tuttlefh.com/content/view/1395/16/

Compiled by **Richetta Wilson Lobban**, Reference Librarian, East Orange Public Library

Back to High School at Red Bank PL



One of the many images of Red Bank Regional High School history users can discover at Red Bank PL

While the high school's graduating class already donates a yearbook to the library, we hope to work with them in the future to raise additional funds each year to ensure that yearbooks continue to be digitized.

Enhancing Connections

In addition to yearbooks, our library holds a vast collection of photographs documenting the history of RBRHS. When the donor, Anthony Trufolo, passed away, these collections were mentioned in press coverage of his death.

As a result, several patrons visited our photography exhibit and suggested that RBRHS class reunion attendees might really enjoy seeing the collection as well. We hope in the near future we will be able to hold an open house during high school reunion week activities. We would get folks through the door, have the books and photos available for viewing, and hold contests to identify who is who.

Going forward, we could even hold regular open house events that highlight items from our "Personal Connection" resources, driving more traffic to the library building and website. In order to make an open house and similar programs happen, we are working with Red Bank Regional High School and growing our collaboration with them into a true partnership.

We believe our digitization projects, along with increased connections within the community to the library, will lead to greater advocacy, financial support, and our ultimate goal: reopening the New Jersey History Room, which will benefit both the town as a whole and the extended research community.

Lisa Iannucci is a Librarian at the Red Bank Public Library. She holds an M.F.A. from New School University in New York and an M.L.I.S. from Long Island University in Brookville, N.Y. Lisa successfully completed an internship at the Woody Guthrie Archives in Mt. Kisco, N.Y. in 2012, and has volunteered at the Monmouth County Archives since 2013. Her email is liannucci@lmxac.org.

2015 NJLA Honors and Awards Recipients

Librarian of the Year

Heidi Cramer, *Newark PL*

President's Award

Mimi Hui, *Hasbrouck Heights PL*
Donna Perkosky, *Paramus PL*

Library Service Award - Individual

Richard Kearny, *William Paterson University*

Library Service Award - Friends/Volunteers

Friends of the Bradley Beach PL
Teen Advisory Group, *Atlantic City Free PL*
Friends of the Monroe Township PL

Library Service Award - Trustees

Metuchen PL Board of Trustees

Library Champion Award

Jaime Angelini, *Mental Health Association of Atlantic County*
Scott Bonner, *Ferguson Municipal PL*
Diane Hale, *Swedesboro Borough Council*
Peter Curran, *Greater Swedesboro Business Association*
The Honorable Ian Leonard, *Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders*
Northvale Residents for a Municipal Library
Robert White, *Bergen County Cooperative Library System*
The Honorable Diane Allen, *State Senator, District 7*
The Honorable Wayne DeAngelo, *State Assemblyman, District 14*
The Honorable Gordon Johnson, *State Assemblyman, District 37*
The Honorable Troy Singleton, *State Assemblyman, District 7*

Student Award

William Bejarano, *Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies*

Rising Star Award

Megan England, *Atlantic City Free PL*
Steven Hrubes, *Monroe Township PL*
Lanora Melillo, *West Orange PL*

Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award

Deborah Mercer, *NJ State Library*

PR Award - Information Literature

Mountain Lakes Library, "Mountain Lakes Centennial" Booklet
Somerset County Library System, "Novel November"

PR Award - Public Relations Campaign

Bergen County Cooperative Library System, "Celebrating 35 Years of Connecting Libraries"
NJ State Library, "Online High School Program"

PR Award - Surprise Us!

Camden County Library, Library Van
South Brunswick Public Library, Community Reading Program Display

Recipients were honored at the annual awards reception on Tuesday, April 21, during the NJLA Conference at Ocean Place in Long Branch, N.J.

Congrats to all the recipients!

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Fall 2015

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Great libraries start with great community partners. Do you have a special community partnership story? Tips on making new connections? Ideas on how to grow existing relationships? We want to hear from you!

Propose by July 1

Members: To contribute an article, just email a proposal to newsletter_editor@njlamembers.org!

If your idea is approved, the editor will arrange details for your assignment.



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Jayne Beline (with Anne Wodnick, right) celebrates 25 years of NJLA membership. Other Class of 1990 members celebrating 25 years with NJLA include Robert Belvin, Pamela Holmes, Rhonda Marker, Susan O'Neal, Susan Rice, and Maureen Toole.