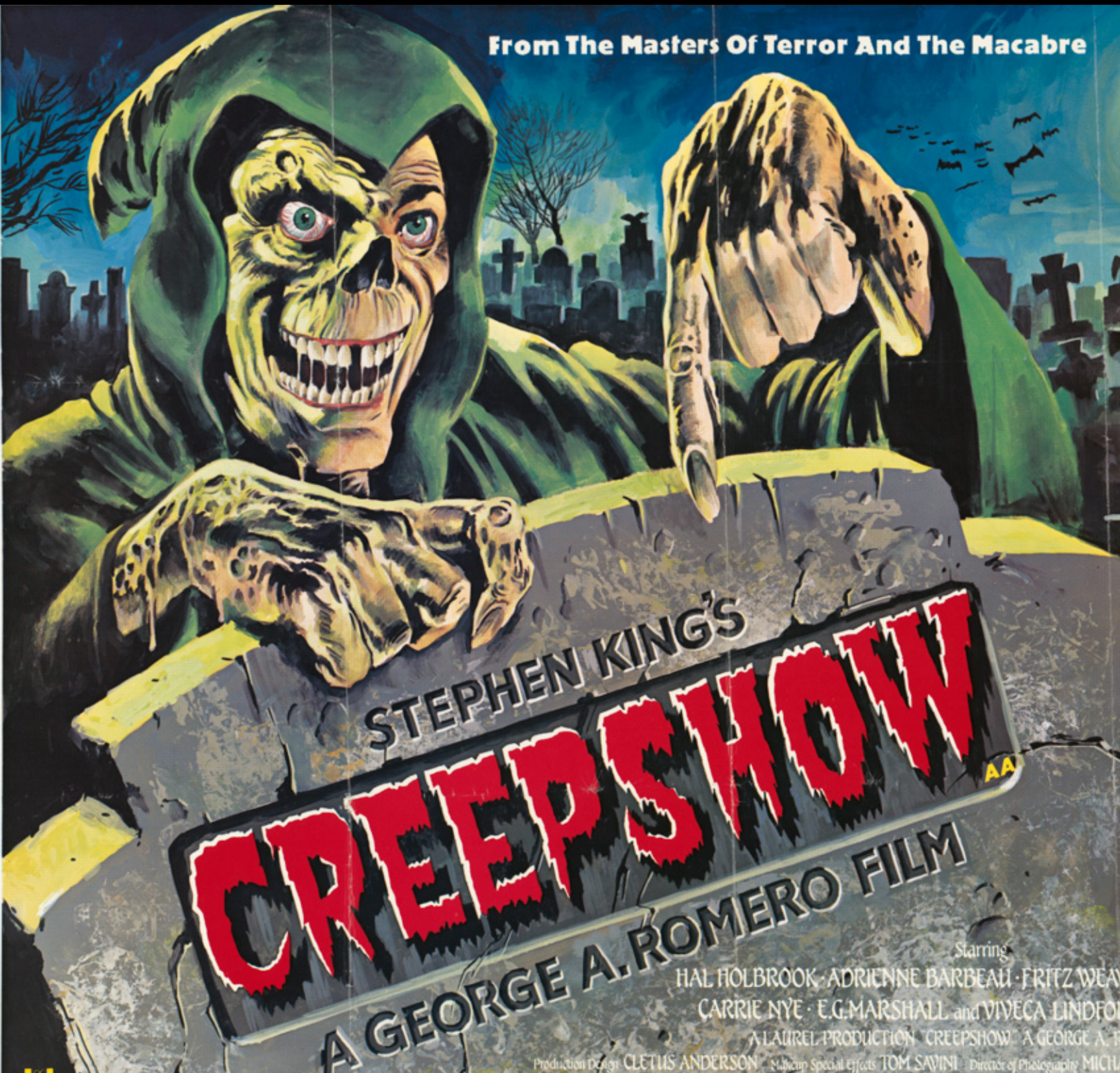


VOL. 55 | NO. 4 | FALL 2026

Mid-Atlantic *Archivist*

DELAWARE • DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA • MARYLAND • NEW JERSEY • NEW YORK • PENNSYLVANIA • VIRGINIA • WEST VIRGINIA



From The Masters Of Terror And The Macabre

STEPHEN KING'S

CREEPSHOW

A GEORGE A. ROMERO FILM

Starring

HAL HOLBROOK · ADRIENNE BARBEAU · FRITZ WEAN

CARRIE NYE · E.G. MARSHALL and VIVECA LINDEFO

A LAUREL PRODUCTION "CREEPSHOW" A GEORGE A. R

Production Design: CLETUS ANDERSON · Makeup Special Effects: TOM SAVINI · Director of Photography: MICHA

Table of Contents

The Mid-Atlantic Archivist

Editor

Carolyn Friedrich

Associate Editor

Regina Dziergas

Advertising Editor

Jill Tominosky

Caucus News Editor

Anna Juliar

Contact the editorial team at

maa@marac.info

The Mid-Atlantic Archivist (MAA) ISSN 0738-9396 is the quarterly newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC). MARAC membership includes interested individuals who live and work in Delaware, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. MARAC seeks to promote the professional welfare of its members; to effect cooperation among individuals concerned with the documentation of the human experience; to enhance the exchange of information among colleagues working in the immediate regional area; to improve the professional competence of archivists, curators of textual, audio-visual and related special research collections, and records managers; and to encourage professional involvement of those actively engaged in the acquisition, preservation, bibliographic control and use of all types of historical research materials.

Individual annual membership dues are \$60. The dues year runs from July 1 through June 30.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

MARAC Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013

Phone: (717) 713-9973

Email: maa@marac.info

Online: www.marac.info/membership

Deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

Layout and design for MAA is provided by Dickinson College Print Center

On the Cover

A spooky item to celebrate the season from the collections at University of Pittsburgh Library System. *Creepshow*. 1982. Poster. Promotional Materials circa 1967-2009, George A. Romero Archival Collection, 1962-2017, SC.2019.03, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System. <https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt:31735073095923>

To the Right

Jack o'Lantern/Mugler. Mugler Engraving Co., 1906. Print. Miscellaneous Items in High Demand. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2024641550/>

From the Chair.	1
In Union with the Future: A Case Study in Electronic Records Management for an Administrative Transition.	2
New Members.	5
Treasurer's Report.	6
MARAC Statement on the Proposed Closures of NARA Regional Archives Centers.	7
Meeting People Where They Are: Embracing Community through Pop-Up Exhibits.	8
Three Ways to Make Your Classic File Folders Do More For Your Archival Collections.	11
Caucus News.	13
Awards Committee Update.	19
MARAC's Fall 2026 Virtual Conference.	19



From the Chair

DEB SCHIFF

My Dear MARAC'ers,

Welcome to the Fall 2026 issue of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*. I heartily thank the Communications Committee's MAA Subcommittee for their diligence and hard work in building this and every issue. Each season, I look forward to seeing what our colleagues have written, and I always learn something new.

As I write this column, our Steering Committee has begun working on a new charge: creating our next strategic plan. By taking this on as a body, elected and appointed MARAC volunteers are all invited to take a seat at the table in this process from the beginning. Starting in August, each month, we will examine what has worked, what needs improvement, and what goals we need to set for the next five years. Your very valuable input from our Membership Survey will be considered an important driver for our next set of long-term goals. The most important part of this process is that we accomplish it as a community of colleagues.

Thanks to our Virtual Meeting Co-Chairs, Melissa Davis, Jen Gathings, Darby Nisbett Schini, and Meredith Sproull; our fall conference's theme, *Archives Adapting to a Changing World*, could not be more appropriate. As ever, MARAC's meetings touch on today's needs -- from relationship building with local organizations to grant writing, and much more. During a time when working in our field requires even more creativity, collaboration, and practical skills than ever before, I'm glad

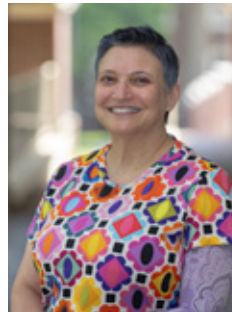
that we can count on our MARAC colleagues to deliver a meeting that will be useful and engaging. Thank you to everyone serving on the 2026 Virtual Conference Committee for all your time and hard work.

Moving from regional to national, I am very concerned about our archives colleagues at the National Archives Regional Facilities in Chicago, San Bruno, and Seattle, who face closures due to federal underfunding. These closures not only mean job losses for fellow archivists and archive workers, but also will be devastating to the local communities, especially Indigenous communities, who depend on access to the documents held at these sites that have not yet been digitized. Also of great concern are the materials related to the immigration, exclusion, naturalization, and wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans.

Please see the MARAC Statement on the Proposed Closures of NARA Regional Archives Centers on page 7 for more information and ways to take action.

Please reach out to me at chair@marac.info with your thoughts about MARAC.

Deb Schiff
Chair, 2026-2027



SAVE THE DATE N'AT

Meet us dahntahn when MARAC comes to Pittsburgh, **MARCH 31 - APRIL 3, 2027.**



It's time to get nebbly about MARAC's Spring in-person conference—more details coming soon. Brush up on your Pittsburghese while you wait.

We promise to tell you if Kennywood's open!

Kennywood. Ferguson, Herb, 1983-1991. Photograph. Herb Ferguson Photograph Collection, 1950-2010, AIS.2011.11, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System. <https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt%3A20220913-hpicasc-084>

IN UNION WITH THE FUTURE: A Case Study in Electronic Records Management for an Administrative Transition

BY CORINNE CHATNIK AND MEGHAN WILLIS



Librarians at Union College, a small liberal arts college in upstate New York, balance the needs of students, faculty, staff, and outside researchers in an increasingly digital landscape. In January 2025, the college's Schaffer Library learned it would receive the outgoing College president's digital papers when he departed that summer. While the library had a digital preservation program, it had previously only handled small, ad hoc records and collections. This transfer's size and prominence would be a first for the Digital Preservation Team.

THE PROJECT TEAM

At Union College, digital preservation involves multiple campus departments and library divisions. Schaffer Library operates with three divisions: Research & Engagement, Content & Digital Library Systems (CDLS), and Special Collections. Digital preservation initiatives are led by Corinne Chatnik, Digital Collections & Preservation Librarian, in the Content & Digital Library Systems division, and Meghan Willis, Records Management Librarian, in the Special Collections division.

The Digital Collections and Preservation Librarian serves as technical expert for repository standards, ensuring born-

digital objects can be curated and maintained for long-term access. The Records Management Librarian coordinates records transfers and processes incoming materials to Special Collections and Archives, collaborating with the Digital Collections and Preservation Librarian on digital transfers, creating ArchiveSpace records, and establishing the file path for storage on Preservica. Together, these positions served as liaisons and project managers for this transfer.

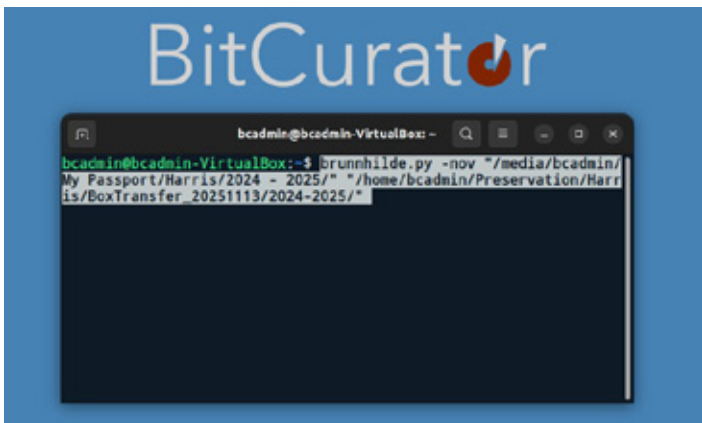
Externally, the project team included the college's Chief Information Officer, who serves as the official College Records Manager responsible for the institution's retention schedule. Additionally, Information Technology Services retains campus emails. This administrative separation posed unique challenges for a proactive preservation strategy.

THE PROJECT

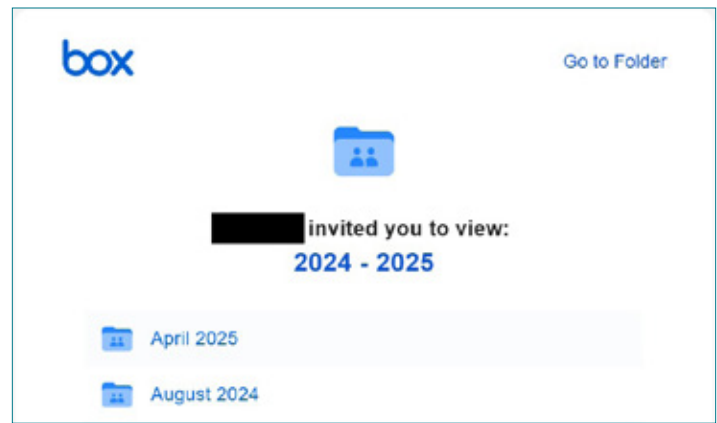
The collection consisted of thirty-two gigabytes of born-digital materials stored between the Box platform and a local network drive, containing a variety of digital formats from photographs to Word documents. The materials included meeting minutes, speeches, correspondence, personnel records, and more from the president's seven-year tenure.

In May 2025, official meetings began between Schaffer Library, Information Technology Services, and the President's Office. The team reviewed the process, the types of materials permanently retained, and how they were currently stored. Librarians explained the anticipated transfer process, reviewed access level options during processing, and discussed excluding personnel records from the transfer. Administration's questions about the sensitive nature of the records were addressed by sharing the ethical codes and procedures archivists are bound by. Ultimately, the administration chose to proceed with minimal processing with analysis only via file paths, restricting librarians' access to viewing the materials themselves.

Above: Schaffer Library. August 2026. Image courtesy of Meghan Willis.



Screenshot of Brunnhilde command on BitCurator. August 2026 Image courtesy of Corinne Chatnik.



Screenshot of the email alert that Digital Preservation Librarian was added to a Box folder. August 2026. Image courtesy of Corinne Chatnik.

PRESERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The preservation setup is a standalone workstation in a secure room, with credentials held only by the Digital Preservation Librarian, Records Management Librarian, and Director of CDLS. The workstation has eight gigabytes of storage, runs Windows, can be disconnected from the network, and supports multiple USB drives. Installed is BitCurator, run through VirtualBox since it's incompatible with Windows alone, used specifically for its Bulk Extractor/Brunnhilde and ClamTK components: ClamTK for virus-checking incoming drives and Brunnhilde for reporting.

RECORDS TRANSFER

The records were transferred piecemeal and without documentation. This is not in line with recommended best practices for transfers, but due to the sensitive and restricted nature of the content, librarians tried to accommodate the record creator's wishes rather than impose those guidelines. The Digital Preservation Librarian would receive automated notifications upon being added to a folder of records and transfer them immediately, or risk losing track of them. Librarians did not know what records to expect, as there was no manifest to cross reference and confirm that the library received all records by the end of the transfer. This caused issues that were eventually remedied, but it was a learning experience for why certain best practices exist. Going forward, the library will be clear about expectations and use this experience as a cautionary tale.

THE FILE NAMING PROBLEM

One of the first hurdles was accessing the records. The records downloaded from Box arrived as multiple zip files. When attempting to unzip them, the Digital Preservation Librarian repeatedly encountered an unclear error code. For nearly every zip file, attempts at unzipping generated an error message indicating that a particular file could not be

extracted, halting the entire unzipping process. Fortunately, the error identified the offending file, allowing the librarian to locate it within each Box folder and compare files to determine what they had in common.

The issue turned out to be file naming. The president held frequent one-on-one meetings, and folders documenting them were named "1:1 Meeting with [Name]," the colon being the source of the problem. After considerable internet searching, a tech forum suggested using 7-Zip software, which can rename files by replacing invalid characters with underscores to complete extraction. This resolved the issue.

VIRUS CHECKING AND REPORTING

Once files were unzipped and transferred to the external hard drive, the preservation workstation was disconnected from the network for two reasons. First, in case the downloaded files contained viruses, this would protect the network drive from the infected files. Second, disconnecting from the network made them inaccessible to bad actors through the network, which was ideal given the sensitive nature of the files. ClamTK was run over all unzipped files to confirm they were virus-free, since research determined Box provided no antivirus protection of its own.

Next, Brunnhilde generated a report detailing file formats, PRONOM identification, checksums, file paths, duplicates, and file errors. The collection was too large to process more than one fiscal year at a time, as larger amounts crashed VirtualBox. Yearly reports were combined to identify duplicates, over 2,000 total, by comparing checksums to determine exact matches.

DEDUPLICATION AND WEEDING

Since most duplicates were found across folders titled “One on one meeting with [insert name],” the working assumption was that these arose because a topic or document was carried forward, unchanged, into the next meeting. In consultation with the Records Management Librarian, it was decided to weed out the older copy of each duplicate, reasoning that any decision was made at the later meeting. This reverses the usual archival preference for the earliest version, but is appropriate given the contextual relationship between duplicates.

For duplicates outside of meeting folders, the file path was examined to determine which location provided the most context and was weeded accordingly. This was documented in a spreadsheet--duplicates to be weeded were highlighted in yellow, files deemed to be candidates for weeding based on content were highlighted in red, and all materials were reviewed by the Records Management Librarian. Red-highlighted files largely consisted of personnel and job search records; the Director confirmed with HR that it retains applicant records independently, and after that confirmation those files were also weeded.

COMPLETION OF PROCESSING

The finalized weeding report was reviewed by the Records Management Librarian before a custom script was run to move all files marked for weeding from their original location to a separate “to-be-weeded” folder, rather than deleting them outright. This allowed a final verification to occur before the files were deleted. Together, both librarians confirmed the files were ready for removal. Throughout, this process was fully documented in ArchivesSpace. Once weeding was complete, the records were uploaded to Preservica.



David R. Harris papers. Meghan Willis, August 2026. Photograph. Special Collections & Archives at Schaffer Library, Union College.

LESSONS LEARNED

In retrospect, several aspects of this process would have been handled differently. This experience helped balance the preferences of other campus departments against established best practice, and now serves as a cautionary example supporting subsequent recommendations.

Different stakeholders required different types of information, so monthly meetings kept all parties informed and on track. Internally, the Records Management Librarian and Digital Preservation Librarian held biweekly meetings, which proved highly valuable, taking notes on in-process, completed, and outstanding tasks, both for the ArchivesSpace record and to develop improved workflow documentation. This record-keeping will help Schaffer Library handle future mass transfers of digital material.

REFERENCES

- BitCurator Consortium. “Install Option 2: Installation via Virtual Machine.” BitCurator Installation Overview, July 20, 2018. <https://bitcurator.github.io/documentation/Installing%20BitCurator/Install%20Option%202%3A%20Installation%20via%20Virtual%20Machine/>.
- “CLAMTK Virus Scanner – Linux GUI for Clamav.” clamtk, March 3, 2026. <https://clamtk.com/>.
- Pavlov, Igor. 7-Zip, 2026. <https://www.7-zip.org/>.
- SAA Council. “SAA Core Values Statement and Code of Ethics.” SAA Core Values Statement and Code of Ethics | Society of American Archivists, August 2025. https://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-core-values-statement-and-code-of-ethics#code_of_ethics.
- Walsh, Tessa. “TW4L/Brunnhilde: Siegfried-Based Characterization Tool for Directories and Disk Images.” GitHub, May 27, 2016. <https://github.com/tw4l/brunnhilde>.

New Members

June 2026

Katie Bacu Delaware Public Archives
Mary Chu Self-Employed
Bridget Day City University of New York
Ella Harris Historic Annapolis
Vera Madey New York University
Charles Reigle Salisbury University; Edward H.
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva
History and Culture
Megan Rodgers Self-Employed
Laura Romans University of Tennessee Libraries
Rachel Simpkins Salisbury University
Chelsea Trinh University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Tyra Turner Sigma Phi Epsilon
Karen Yust St. Helena-Incarnation School

July 2026

Caroline Anderson-Gray Catholic University
Unity Bowling Randolph Macon College
Allison Hale Salt River Project
Michelle Jones Retired
Rebecca Kashinski Blodgett Memorial Library
Mary Patton Old Dominion University
Taylor Woodcock Peters Township Public Library

August 2026

Abdeena Barrie Howard University - Moorland-Spingarn
Research Center
Paul Campagna Delaware Music History Archive
Caitlin Connelly Georgian Court University
Dale Dulaney Virginia Western Community College
Mary Rose Fay Delaware Public Archives
Brittney Ingersoll Black Cat Archival & Museum
Consulting LLC
Abigail Johnson University of Maryland
Grace Lile Independent
Alexander Maksiaev University of Maryland
Dana Reijerkerk Self-Employed
Tanner Schudlich University of Michigan
Angelina Seamster University of Maryland
Brendon Ward National Museum of Industrial History

That was then.
This is now.



Isn't it time for another look?

A lot has changed since Aeon was launched in 2008. As your work evolves, Atlas Systems is committed to transforming how you and your researchers interact with your archives and special collections.

That's why we're introducing **the new Aeon web client**—a modern, streamlined experience designed to help your staff manage access and your researchers get where they need to go.

If it's been a while since you talked with us, now is the time to take another look.



See what's new. See what's possible.
See where Aeon is going next.

www.atlas-sys.com/connectwithus
You have a job to do. We help you do it.

Treasurer's Report

FISCAL YEAR 2026 • 4TH QUARTER • APRIL 1-JUNE 30, 2026

CATEGORY	Budget	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total	% Budget
INCOME							
Membership Dues	\$45,000.00	\$28,470.00	\$2,932.00	\$4,369.00	\$10,656.00	\$46,427.00	103%
Conference Registration	\$62,500.00	\$4,775.00	\$4,400.00	\$50,142.00	\$14,144.00	\$73,461.00	118%
Conference Vendors	\$14,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,100.00	\$9,810.00	\$3,500.00	\$18,910.00	135%
Conference Sponsorship	\$4,500.00	\$500.00	\$6,549.00	\$2,600.00	\$1,300.00	\$10,949.00	243%
Publication Advertising	\$1,800.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$0.00	\$1,880.00	\$2,760.00	153%
Publication Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
VA Caucus Event	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$380.00	\$380.00	76%
Off-Meeting Workshops	\$4,000.00	\$1,325.00	\$1,030.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$2,955.00	74%
Bank Interest	\$1,800.00	\$612.43	\$1,013.86	\$938.34	\$940.25	\$3,504.88	195%
Investment Interest	\$3,500.00	\$1,365.75	\$1,111.22	\$311.61	\$555.98	\$3,344.56	96%
Gifts to Operations	\$900.00	\$180.00	\$420.00	\$0.00	\$515.00	\$1,115.00	124%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$231.65	\$45.00	\$276.66	0%
Total Income	\$138,500.00	\$41,168.18	\$19,996.09	\$68,402.60	\$34,516.23	\$164,083.10	118%
EXPENSES							
Administrator	\$22,000.00	\$6,695.84	\$4,381.14	\$4,396.40	\$4,484.33	\$19,957.71	91%
Web Services	\$9,450.00	\$8,816.86	\$497.06	\$279.09	\$21.19	\$9,614.20	102%
Archival Collection	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	100%
Accountant	\$3,325.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,580.00	\$3,580.00	108%
Advocacy	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Insurance Policies	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,743.00	\$1,743.00	97%
Phone	\$625.00	\$79.15	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$349.15	56%
Postage	\$150.00	\$34.26	\$39.42	\$29.58	\$81.46	\$184.72	123%
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$78.91	\$78.91	79%
Food	\$4,250.00	\$0.00	\$36.78	\$0.00	\$3,208.71	\$3,245.49	76%
Travel	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$174.68	\$0.00	\$340.03	\$514.71	41%
Equipment	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$296.79	\$296.79	119%
Design and Printing	\$3,700.00	\$520.26	\$375.00	\$675.00	\$225.00	\$1,795.26	49%
Conference	\$75,000.00	\$2,930.54	\$9,710.15	\$201.93	\$60,582.33	\$73,424.95	98%
Lodging	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$154.29	\$0.00	\$1,012.68	\$1,166.97	97%
Honoraria	\$2,800.00	\$250.00	\$700.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$1,250.00	45%
Awards and Prizes	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$1,306.72	\$1,606.72	85%
VA Caucus Event	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$380.00	\$380.00	76%
Banking Fees	\$7,000.00	\$1,861.76	\$1,072.10	\$757.32	\$3,616.33	\$7,307.51	104%
Investments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Miscellaneous	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$364.90	\$614.90	154%
Total Expenses	\$138,500.00	\$21,188.67	\$17,780.62	\$7,629.32	\$81,512.38	\$128,110.99	92%
Net Income or (Loss)		\$19,979.51	\$2,215.47	\$60,773.28	(\$46,996.15)	\$35,972.11	
Account Balances							
PNC Checking	\$103,306.22		Operating	\$82,968.26	\$34,516.23	(\$81,512.38)	\$35,972.11
PNC Savings	\$174,178.42		Restricted	\$185,032.49	\$13,616.00	(\$2,338.37)	\$196,310.12
Vanguard Bonds	\$99,107.16		Reserve	\$48,475.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,475.00
Total	\$376,591.80		Surplus	\$95,834.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95,834.57
Summary - Fourth Quarter FY 2026			Totals	\$412,310.32	\$48,132.23	(\$83,850.75)	\$376,591.80
Opening Balance		\$412,310.32					
Total Income		\$48,132.23					
Total Expenses		(\$83,850.75)					
Closing Balance		\$376,591.80					
Restricted Funds				Opening	New Gifts	Spending	Closing
PNC Savings	\$97,202.96		Disaster Assist.	\$28,318.50	\$625.00	\$0.00	\$28,943.50
Vanguard Bonds	\$99,107.16		Education	\$103,477.85	\$1,774.00	(\$2,338.37)	\$102,913.48
Total	\$196,310.12		Graduate Schol	\$48,555.14	\$10,717.00	\$0.00	\$59,272.14
			Finch Award	\$4,681.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$5,181.00
			Total	\$185,032.49	\$13,616.00	(\$2,338.37)	\$196,310.12

MARAC STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURES OF NARA REGIONAL ARCHIVES CENTERS

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference stands in solidarity with our colleagues at the Chicago Area Archivists, Midwest Archives Conference, Society of California Archivists, Society of American Archivists, and NAGARA, as well as Densho in voicing our opposition to the proposed closures of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) regional facilities in Chicago, IL; San Bruno, CA; and Seattle, WA. We stand in solidarity with the archival staff, the value of whose years of knowledge and experience of the regional records held in these facilities and their connections with materials in other local archives cannot be overstated.

The missing transparency in communications about these moves or the plans to make the largely analog materials accessible to the public is disturbing given the importance of the information preserved in these locations. Local residents, researchers, documentarians, genealogists, students, teachers, and Indigenous and other historically excluded communities depend on the not-yet-digitized documents and other materials held at these archives. The collections held at these regional archives include unique and irreplaceable materials including collections that document Indigenous residential schools; case files and materials related to the immigration, exclusion, naturalization, and wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans; Coast Guard records; and Veterans' records, just to name a few.

These planned closures will move records away from their principal users: local citizens seeking their own naturalization records to prove citizenship status, those who need records of court cases in which they were involved, descendants of Indigenous people who attended government boarding schools, and veterans seeking information about vessels on which they served. By creating barriers to information, both geographic and financial, NARA is acting against its own mission: "We preserve, protect, and share the historical records of the United States to promote public inquiry and strengthen democratic participation."

MARAC urges its members, other cultural heritage professionals, and the general public to take action about this issue. To that end, we recommend the suggested ways our colleagues at the Chicago Area Archivists have listed on their [website](#).

For more information about these closures see the following:

Our organizational partner, [NAGARA's statement](#) with SAA and CoSA.

[Society of California Archivists' statement](#) on the NARA San Bruno closure.

[Densho's statement](#) about the closing of the Chicago and San Bruno facilities.

[Midwest Archives Conference statement](#) on the proposed closure of NARA archives centers.

In Solidarity,

Deb Schiff, *Chair, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference*



Meeting People Where They Are: Embracing Community through Pop-Up Exhibits

Laura E. Christiansen & Tammy L. Tran, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Virginia

At Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, Virginia, we have spent the last few years testing a simple idea: instead of waiting for people to come to us, we bring our collections to them. The library, established in 1922 and operated by the Town of Leesburg since 1994, serves as the area's history

and genealogy library. We're open seven days a week, we offer evening hours, and we combine the expertise of a special collections library with the accessibility of a public library. As we expand our twentieth-century collections and seek to reflect our county's growing diversity, we've found

that monthly pop-up exhibits in a historic log cabin have helped us reach people we might never have met otherwise.

AN UNEXPECTED SOLUTION TO LIMITED EXHIBIT SPACE

Like many small institutions, Thomas Balch Library has limited exhibit space in the library itself. Our potential solution sat a short walk away: the Donaldson Log Cabin,

a historic structure in the heart of downtown Leesburg. The cabin was built around 1763 to be a silversmith's shop, and is one of the few surviving "covenant houses," early structures built to very specific dimensions to secure property ownership. Over the next two centuries, it was expanded and repurposed, serving as everything from a funeral home to a dry cleaner. In the 1960s, it was acquired by the Town of Leesburg. While preparing to demolish the building, the Town discovered the cabin hidden beneath later additions. It was moved about a block to its present site, and its restoration became a major turning point for historic preservation in Loudoun County.

In 2023, with the cabin sitting empty, the Town asked departments to propose uses. Thomas Balch Library staff successfully requested to use it as processing space; however, we quickly



Above: Stephen Donaldson Log Cabin, Leesburg, VA, 2024. Photograph. Thomas Balch Library.

Top of page: Mayor Kelly Burk reading Leesburg Day Proclamation, Donaldson Cabin, Leesburg, VA, October 4, 2024.

realized the cabin offered more than extra square footage. It sparks curiosity in a different way than a traditional reading room. People wander in because they want to see the inside of an intriguing old building, and once inside, they stay to explore collections they might never have thought to seek out at the library.

STARTING SIMPLE WITH FIRST FRIDAYS

We began with small, manageable exhibits anchored to Leesburg's First Friday, a monthly downtown event that already drew crowds. Since March 2023, we've hosted more than twenty free pop-up exhibits from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. These exhibits did not require building a new audience, applying for grants, or launching a formal program. All we needed was a table, a theme, and a time when people were already gathering. Staff time stayed manageable, costs stayed low, and the boost in visibility was immediate. We learned that you do not need a complex program. You only need a simple structure and a place where people are naturally inclined to stop in.

A TWO-WAY INFORMATION HUB

What surprised us most is that the cabin quickly became more than a display space. It functions as a two-way information hub, a conversation space where we share information with visitors, and a place where visitors share information with us. We have received donations of photographs, family histories, and oral histories during pop-ups, and exhibits offer us an easy way to highlight newly accessioned items.

We also include something interactive in every exhibit. During our *Apothecaries and Medicine* pop-up, visitors hunted for chemicals in historic pharmacy ledgers to fill bingo cards. At our *Pets* exhibit, visitors added photos of furry friends to our "Bark-chive" via a QR code. At our *Parks and Recreation* exhibit, people marked the local parks they had visited on a map. These small prompts spark conversation where donations, volunteers, and new relationships begin.

EMBRACING THE CHAOS: LEESBURG DAY

Opening the cabin to the public also meant opening ourselves up to outside requests. In 2024, Mayor Kelly Burk created Leesburg Day to celebrate the Town's founding on October 12, 1758. The Donaldson Log Cabin, one of Leesburg's original structures, made the perfect spot for a proclamation reading along with a pop-up exhibit. Someone suggested a fife-and-drum corps to set a historic mood.

We spent weeks trying to find a fife-and-drum corps with no luck. A performing-arts-focused school finally said that all their students learned drums and a corps might be able to perform.

The day of the event arrived, and as final exhibit touches went up, a construction crew unexpectedly dug a large hole next to the cabin. We convinced them to fill it in and to put down hay to disguise the muddy mess. Later, a drum kit and amplifiers appeared next to



Visitors to the Leesburg Day Exhibit, Donaldson Cabin, Leesburg, VA, October 4, 2024, Thomas Balch Library



Costumed visitors visit Lafayette Exhibit at the Donaldson Cabin, Leesburg, VA, August 9, 2025. Thomas Balch Library.

the recently filled-in hole. By 5:00 p.m., fifth graders were rotating through enthusiastic drum solos of “Walk This Way,” “Seven Nation Army,” and “Wrecking Ball.” Students waiting to perform were joyfully tossing hay from the freshly filled hole at each other. This was not what we had in mind. It was chaos.

It was chaos, but out of the chaos, magic happened. The drumming drew a crowd for the Mayor’s Proclamation. Families stayed for the exhibit, explored early Leesburg records, and even called friends to join them. By every measure of attendance and engagement, Leesburg Day was a success. It reminded us that stepping outside our controlled spaces means embracing unpredictability, and sometimes the unpredictable moments are the most memorable.

SCALING UP: THE LAFAYETTE 2025 EXHIBIT

In 2025, Thomas Balch Library was called upon again to spearhead the celebration of a key moment in Leesburg’s past: the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette’s visit to Leesburg during his farewell tour of the United States in 1825. If our monthly pop-ups show what a small team can manage, the bicentennial showed what becomes possible when partnerships come together.

Commemorating Lafayette’s 1825 visit gave us a reason to build a partnership network that included the Town, our Friends of the Library group, the Black History Committee, other historic sites, local educators and students, and local businesses. Each partner brought strengths we did not have - access to top-notch reenactors, actual fife-and-drum corps, and the promotional power of the Town’s Economic Development and Public Information departments. By tying the commemoration to Taste Leesburg, one of the largest community events of the year, we reached almost 8,000 people. The impact was clear: new visitors came into the library, new materials came into our collections, and strong relationships formed.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PROCESSING COLLECTIONS

Our newest experiment returns to our vision of the cabin as a working space. In 2025, we launched volunteer processing events where community members help sort, organize, and index collection materials. Volunteers attend a brief orientation, receive training at the start of each session, and work under staff supervision.

Each session focuses on one clear task, such as sorting or foldering materials. Volunteers learn about local history through hands-on work. Once a working forge, the cabin now has new life as a working space, forging community connections in real time.

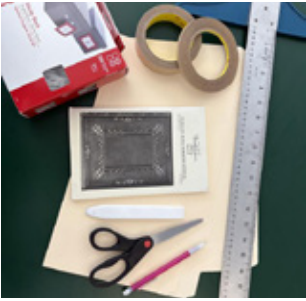
TAKEAWAYS

For colleagues considering pop-up exhibits or other ways of meeting people where they are, here is what we would pass along. Manage expectations from the start and accept that you will not be able to control everything. Build on partnerships and community strengths. Choose places and events where people are already gathering. Build gradually and pace yourself. Look for ways to spark conversation. Above all, always double-check what someone means by “drum corps.”

A little creativity and a lot of staff time can go a long way. Using an unexpected space has brought new visitors, new relationships, and new visibility to Thomas Balch Library. Pop-up exhibits foster connection, curiosity, and belonging. By stepping outside our comfort zone, we met the community where they felt welcome—and together we are building a stronger, more inclusive historical record.

Three Ways to Make Your Classic File Folders Do More For Your Archival Collections

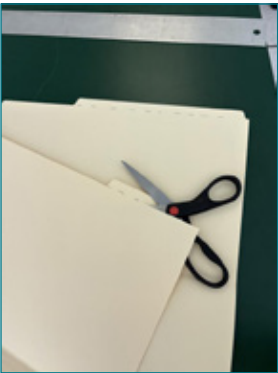
by Madeleine Chesek-Welch, Preservation Program Manager, University of Pittsburgh Library System



It is incredibly easy to fall into the trap of ordering specifically sized boxes, folders, and other forms of housing for every project that one encounters. While the immediate instinct may be to buy, there is no denying that the price of these specialty items can rack up costs very quickly which is unrealistic for many of us in the cultural heritage field. The file folder is already an archivist's best friend, and it can be used for so much more than its intended purpose. Today we will be focusing on how to create a four-flap folder (sometimes called a phase box) out of your average legal sized file folders. Four-flaps are great for objects that need a bit of extra support or protection, particularly items that are small, thin, or delicate. This is the first installment in a three part series on how to make the most of your classic file folder.

Materials Needed:

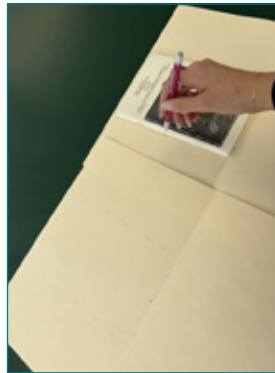
- A ruler
- A pencil
- An eraser
- Scissors or a knife
- Bone folder
- Double sided tape
- 2 Acid Free File Folders. *I am using legal size (9.5 inches by 14.75 inches), but depending on the size of your object, letter size (9.5 inches by 11.75 inches) may work well.*
- A closure of some sort. *I am a fan of using velcro dots, but book tape or even a no closure method may work for you.*



Step 1. Cut off the tabs of your folders.



Step 2. Mark the center of your folder, above where the middle line or natural crease of the folder would be. Repeat on both folders.



Step 3. Line the middle of your item up with the middle of your folder and mark around it. Be sure to use a pencil for this and to not mark the item itself, just around it. Repeat for both folders.



Step 4. Extend the lines on both folders.

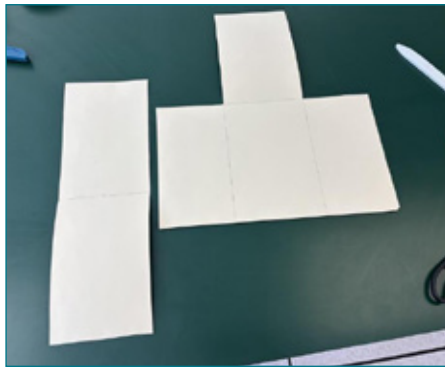




Three Ways to Make Your Classic File Folders Do More For Your Archival Collections [continued](#)

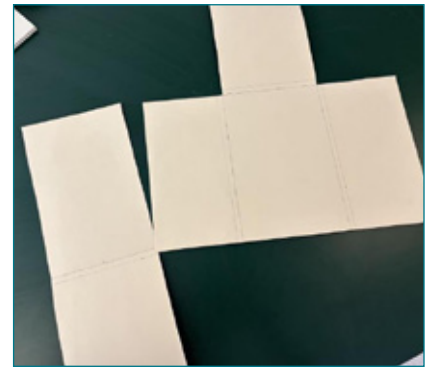


Step 5. This is where the folders will start to be treated differently. Mark the segments you need to cut off with an X, this will differ per folder, as shown in the image. This might seem like a skippable step, but this is where mistakes are most likely to occur.



Step 6. Cut off any segment with an X on it.

Step 7. Measure the depth of your item. If your item is flat, you can skip to Step 9.



Step 8. Anywhere that you have a pencil line, add markings for the depth of your item and create a line. These lines should be on the outside of the lines you have already made. If this is confusing, lay your item down in the space that you previously traced in Step 3 and use that as a guide for where the outside is.



Step 9. Score along each pencil line with your bone folder, then fold each line in. I find that it is easiest to score along the line, fold the paper back and crease and then fold it forward and crease again.



Step 10. Turn the folder piece with three flaps over and add double sided tape to the back of it.



Step 11. Remove the backing of the double sided tape and line up the original outlined part of the second folder. The part that you traced around should go facedown onto the double sided tape.

Step 12. Turn your piece over and erase any extra pencil lines. Optionally, you can choose to round the corners of the enclosure at this time.



Step 13. Place your item in the middle of your four-flap folder. Fold in the right flap, then the left flap, then the bottom flap, then the top flap. To keep your four-flap closed, you can add a velcro dot between the bottom and top flap, or tie the four-flap closed with book tape.

► DELAWARE

GREETINGS FROM THE CAPITAL: THE DELAWARE ANNUAL PICNIC CONTINUES



Delaware caucus members tour the Delaware Public Archives' storage vault. Image courtesy of Maegan Peterman.

Hello! My name is Katheryn Lawson, and I'm the new Delaware caucus representative. First, I want to thank Diane Bockrath for her service as Delaware's caucus representative

these past six years. Diane has been an intrepid leader and dedicated advocate for our small-but-mighty state, and I will count myself a success if I can be half the representative she has been. Thank you, Diane!

Fittingly, my first update for the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* is a glowing report about one of Diane's great successes: the annual picnic! In previous years, it has been hosted in Wilmington by the Nemours Estate and Hagley Library and Museum. While convenient for northern Delaware archivists, the distance proved onerous for our colleagues to the south. This June, we changed it up by holding the picnic in Dover.

The picnic was a success! Before convening on the green, the Delaware Public Archives staff led a behind-the-scenes tour of their archival storage vaults, preservation and processing areas, the Research Room, and their current exhibits, *Revolutionary Lives: 1776 to Tomorrow* and *Delaware Beach Rewind*. We thank Maegan Peterman and the Delaware Public Archives staff for sharing their treasures and planning such an engaging visit.

NIGHT AT THE ARCHIVES BRINGS DELAWARE HISTORY TO LIFE AFTER HOURS

From August 28–29, the Delaware Public Archives hosted its first *Night at the Archives*, an overnight educational program designed to introduce children and families to archives, the history of Delaware, and the work of preserving the state's documentary heritage.

Created for children ages 5–12 and their adult chaperones, the program reached its maximum capacity of 50 participants within two days of registration opening. Families spent the evening participating in games, crafts, an archives-themed

scavenger hunt, educational films, and a flashlight tour that introduced participants to the Archives' collections and preservation work. The evening concluded with a bedtime story before families settled into sleeping bags in the Archives' Research Room, followed by breakfast and departure the next morning.



The program offered a playful, family-friendly approach, introducing younger audiences to an archival setting while giving participants an opportunity to experience the Delaware Public Archives outside of a traditional research visit. The flashlight tour proved especially effective at connecting the evening's activities back to the Archives' mission, giving staff an opportunity to show children original records, explain how and why they are preserved, and answer questions about what archivists actually do.

The response from families was overwhelmingly positive, and the Delaware Public Archives looks forward to welcoming another group of young history explorers for *Night at the Archives* next year.

• CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:

Katheryn Lawson

(302) 298-8033

Katheryn.Lawson@nemours.org

► DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BY GEORGE, I THINK WE'VE GOT THEM! NEW ADDITIONS TO THE GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN COLLECTION

The Music Division at The Library of Congress has long been known for its original music manuscripts, lyric sheets, correspondence, and other materials documenting the lives and careers of brothers George Gershwin (1898-1937) and Ira Gershwin (1896-1983). We are delighted to announce the

acquisition of three fascinating manuscripts, each created by George. The first item is his one-page holograph manuscript score for *Sixteen Bars without a Name* from August 30, 1923, a work for solo piano dedicated to Beryl Rubinstein. The second is his one-page autograph manuscript of two sketches from circa 1931: One is a sketch for an undocumented work he had titled "Says You;" the other sketch is the melody line for "I'm About to Be a Mother," which was used in the 1931 Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, *Of Thee I Sing*. The third item is a fascinating typed letter signed from George to Joseph Schillinger, May 16, 1935. Schillinger (1895-1943) was a Russian-born composer, music theorist, and composition teacher, and was perhaps George's most influential teacher of composition and orchestration. This letter regards Gershwin's progress in composing the music for the opera *Porgy and Bess* and addresses a pre-existing financial loan to Schillinger. This loan is further documented in an earlier letter from Schillinger to George in the Music Division's George & Ira Gershwin Collection.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:**
Christopher Hartten
chha@loc.gov

► MARYLAND

109-YEAR-OLD FILM REDISCOVERED AND DIGITIZED

An *Unbeliever Convinced* was an industrial fire safety film produced in 1917 by Underwriters Laboratories. The film was originally produced on 28mm diacetate film that was made in France by the Pathé Film Company. 28mm film was originally intended for home film use as an alternative to the flammable cellulose nitrate films of the era.

The film had been a part of the University of Maryland Special Collections and University Archives, Mass Media and Culture collection since 1991. In late 2025, the film was "rediscovered" after having been incorrectly labeled as nitrate film. The Preservation Department collaborated with Periscope Films in Los Angeles, the University of Southern California Film Archive, and UL Research Institutes to restore, digitize, and score the silent film.

The film premiered on August 25 at the Chicago History Museum, and is now [available online](#).

THE PAUL SARBANES PAPERS AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, SHERIDAN LIBRARIES

The Paul Sarbanes papers is now open to researchers at Sheridan Libraries, Special Collections, Johns Hopkins University. Jenelle Clark and Irene M. Lewis reviewed, inventoried, rehoused, and consolidated 1,043 boxes down to 781 boxes (1269.61 Cubic Feet) over the course of 3 years. This collection preserves the professional and political history of Democratic Senator Paul Sarbanes, who served in

the United States House of Representatives for Maryland's 4th Congressional District (1971-1973) and Maryland's 3rd Congressional District (1973-1977), and represented Maryland in the United States Senate (1977-2007).

Notable topics include documentation of Sarbanes' time on the House Judiciary Committee during the Nixon impeachment hearings (1971-1975), the Iran-Contra Affair (1985-1987), and the creation of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. In addition, the papers include materials related to Sarbanes' work on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. The Paul Sabanes papers finding aid is [available online](#).

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:**
Jenny Kinniff
Jkinnif1@jhmi.edu

► NEW JERSEY

TOUR OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN CENTER FOR AMERICAN MUSIC

On August 11, 2026, the New Jersey Caucus and New Jersey



Our group during our visit to the Center!

Library Association, History and Preservation Section, joined by several members of the Pennsylvania Caucus and other friends, hosted a joint trip to the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music. We would like to thank Melissa Kozlowski, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Springsteen Center, who gave us an amazing introduction and tour! Melissa opened the Center after hours for us, and showed us a behind-the-scenes look at their work. We saw the introductory film by Springsteen and then explored the many amazing and interactive exhibits. It was a great trip and we had a great turnout of over 20 archivists and librarians from across the state and beyond.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:**
Beth Zak-Cohen
(973) 735-5484
bzakcohen@npl.org

► NEW YORK

BUSY BEES IN VALLEY STREAM

August was a busy month for the Valley Stream Historical Society (VSHS). On the 10th, Robert Anen and his supervisor, Nicole Menchise from the Long Island Library Resources

Council (LILRC), joined Consulting-Archivist and Trustee Joseph Coen at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration, the home of the VSHS, to start a five-week Archival Access Project.

The team began by moving the contents of the archives to a nearby large meeting room. Materials were placed on tables to be sorted by size and type. Photographs and documents were removed from frames when necessary, and the frames were discarded. Color slides were removed from numerous carousels and carousel boxes, and placed in archival plastic sleeves. The plastic sleeves were foldered and boxed. Mixed papers, photographs, ephemera, etc., were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. Full boxes were labeled and placed back on the shelves.

Oversized archival boxes were ordered for the unframed photographs and other large flat items. An enormous 31 x 40.5 in. bound volume of family photos prints from the early 1900s will require the modification of the top level of an existing set of shelves to lay flat. An additional set of larger metal shelves was purchased to accommodate other oversize materials. The shelves are sturdier than the old wall bracket shelves they replaced.

At the end of the project, the LILRC team will help the VSHS to upload selected images from its collections to the New York Heritage Digital Collections. Entries for the Society's collections will be made in the NYS Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative (Empire ADC).

CUNY'S YORK COLLEGE WINS GRANT THAT WILL OPEN QUEENS' BLACK MUSICAL HERITAGE COLLECTION TO THE PUBLIC

The City University of New York's York College has won a New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) grant to process and rehouse the Black American Heritage Foundation Music History Archive (BAHF-MHA). Created by Clarence L. Irving, Sr. in 1987, the archive includes original scores, sheet music, scrapbooks, and other paper records that track the lives and careers of major musical figures such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie. The collection also houses audiovisual materials, musical instruments, and performance attire. The grant funds archival processing that will allow York College to open these valuable and sometimes delicate materials to researchers while maintaining their excellent condition.

York College Library and the York College Art History and Music programs collaborated on the grant application, along with guidance from the CUNY University Archivist's team and the York College Provost's Office. The DHP award is a result of a 2024 survey of York College's archival holdings as part of CUNY's Mellon-funded Cultivating Archives and Institutional Memory project. During the survey, archivists identified 81 cubic feet of unprocessed materials in the BAHF-MHA collection, primarily housed in non-archival containers. Having access to this data allowed archivists and librarians at York

College to better understand the full scope of the processing and rehousing needs and develop a proposal to address them.

The project will culminate in Fall 2027 with a finding aid and public outreach about the archive's availability.

[Read more about the Music History Archive at York College's website.](#)

NEW ARCHIVES-FOCUSED INTEREST GROUP CREATED FOR SUNY LIBRARY STAFF

The State University of New York Librarian's Association (SUNYLA) Special Collections and Archives Interest Group (SCAIG) is a new group, made up of over thirty members representing archivists, librarians, and support staff at institutions in the State University of New York (SUNY) system. The group began meeting in November 2025 and meets once every two months via Zoom. SCAIG discusses matters related to the organization, preservation, and access to physical and digital historical materials in our care.

Discussions within the group thus far have included navigating compliance of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the state of collections management at our institutions, establishing and updating policies, effective ways to share professional knowledge among each other and beyond, and the use of artificial intelligence tools.

Those interested in joining are encouraged to reach out to Zachary Vickery at zachary.vickery@oswego.edu to be added to group communications.

PAPERS OF POETS LAURA MORIARTY AND JERRY ESTRIN AT THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO POETRY COLLECTION

The Poetry Collection of the University Libraries, University at Buffalo, has published finding aids for the newly processed papers of two notable San Francisco Bay Area poets, Laura Moriarty (1952-) and Jerry Estrin (1947-1993), which were acquired from Moriarty in 2023.

The Laura Moriarty papers document over 40 years of the American poet, novelist, editor, and artist's creative output, from manuscripts for her first publication (1976), a unique handmade chapbook (1980), and her online periodical *non* (1997-1998) to *Personal Volcano* (2019). Unusual items in the collection include strips of paper with handwritten words by



Senior Lecturer and collection steward Mark Adams holding a jazz record from the BAHF-MHA collection, 2024. Photograph courtesy of Natalie Milbrodt.

artist Bruce Conner—recreating his collaboration with poet Michael McClure—that Moriarty used to write poems in 1975 and 2006, and a crystal that mystic poet CAConrad charged on the oldest tree on Emily Dickinson’s property in Amherst, Massachusetts. Moriarty’s papers also include over 2,300 photographs, including many of and by her late first husband, Jerry Estrin.

Estrin published several books of poetry before his tragic death from cancer at age 46. He edited *Vanishing Cab* (1977-1984), an influential surrealist poetry magazine, and *Art & Con* (1987-1990), which combined poetry and visual art. He also worked at the Berkeley Art Museum and held master’s degrees in English and Education. Although Estrin was not himself a Language poet, his papers have significant material by and about poets associated with this movement. Other highlights from the collection include submissions and records for Estrin’s magazines, over 100 notebooks, and recently digitized sound recordings, mostly of readings by Bay Area poets.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:**

Amanda Murray

(215) 545-0613, ext. 337

amurray@dhpsny.org

► PENNSYLVANIA

JEFF SCHLANGER DONATES HIS MUSICWITNESS® PROJECT ARCHIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LIBRARY SYSTEM

The University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS) is pleased to announce the acquisition of musicWitness® Project archive, created by visual artist and sculptor, Jeff Schlanger (1937-2026), a prolific, multi-media artist.

The project acts as a real-time, visual documentary of live jazz and improvisational music, hence the name “music witness.” Working with both hands, Schlanger utilized a variety of mediums including acrylic paint, ink, and pens to match the rhythm and emotional arcs of free jazz and improvised musical performances he experienced. The archive contains over 1,400 original paintings, hundreds of 4 x 5 transparencies of his work, sketchbooks, posters, programs, and other materials.

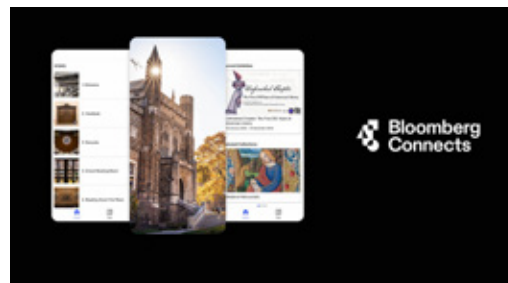
The musicWitness® Project drawings have been exhibited at twenty-nine Arts for Art Vision Festivals held each June in New York City, as well as at the Tampere Jazz Happenings festival in Finland and the Guelph Jazz Festival in Canada. In 2005, the CUE Art Foundation gallery in NYC hosted a major exhibition of Schlanger’s work, including some of his related ceramic sculptures of musicians. His work has also been featured on the recording covers of over thirty musicians, including Julius Hemphill, Muhal Richard Abrams and Roscoe Mitchell, Charles Gayle, William Parker, Billy Bang, and Kidd Jordan.

Over the years, Schlanger has drawn thousands of jazz performers, including Julius Hemphill, William Parker, Cecil Taylor, Pharoah Sanders, Max Roach, and four artists whose archives are held by the University of Pittsburgh Library System: Erroll Garner, Sam Rivers, Bill Cole, and Dave Burrell.

LEHIGH LIBRARIES JOINS BLOOMBERG CONNECTS

Lehigh University Libraries recently launched a digital guide through the Bloomberg Connects application. Funded and developed by the Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Connects app provides galleries, libraries, archives, and museums a free platform to display and promote their exhibitions, tours, and collections. The Lehigh Libraries guide premiered with a guided audio tour of

the historic Linderman Library, as well as an audio tour of the current exhibition, *Unfinished Chapter: The First 250*



Lehigh University Libraries’ Bloomberg Connects digital guide.

Years of American Liberty. This new platform provides an easy method of incorporating audio and video experiences into more traditional static exhibition programming. The Libraries plan to expand the in-app offerings with a tour of historic buildings at Lehigh, a tour of significant trees across campus, and audio overviews of the upcoming Spring 2027 exhibition, which will focus on the history of chemistry inspired by Robert Boyle’s 400th birthday. The digital guide can be accessed on the web or through the Arts+Culture app, which can be downloaded through the Apple App store or Google Play store. Bloomberg Connects is free to join and open to participating institutions.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES PRESENTS IN-HOUSE PHYSICAL EXHIBIT

One of the intentional design features of the New Pennsylvania State Archives (PSA) building is its dedicated exhibit space, which features climate-controlled, back-of-house areas and specialized cases for displaying fragile original materials. The PSA inaugural exhibit, *Declaration: Independence and Remembrance*, highlighted collection items connected to the PA250 celebration.

The exhibit, which opened on March 8, featured the original pages of Pennsylvania’s first constitution from 1776, authored and signed by George Bryan, James Cannon, and Benjamin Franklin. Considered one of the most radical and democratic documents of its time, it served as a foundation of the exhibition. Additional items included an artist’s illuminated interpretation of the Declaration, an 1848 facsimile of the declaration printed from the original 1823 copper plate, bicentennial ephemera, and the bicentennial time capsule

presented to Governor Milton Shapp on June 27, 1976, which is currently stored at the State Archives and scheduled to be opened on July 4, 2075.

The display resonated strongly with visitors and was a successful first step towards future exhibitions. A new exhibit, *Witness to History: Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001*, is currently in development to commemorate the 25-year remembrance of the terrorist attacks.

PHILADELPHIA UNFOLDED

Visit Temple Libraries' fall exhibition: *Philadelphia Unfolded*.

Philadelphia-based artist Colette Fu is known for her intricate pop-up book sculptures, which transform paper into immersive storytelling. Building off the archives' extensive photograph collections, *Philadelphia Unfolded* explores identity, memory, migration, and belonging, reflecting the many communities that shape Philadelphia today. With each piece, Fu invites viewers into layered worlds that feel both personal and collective, capturing the spirit of a city defined by its diversity and creativity.



Philadelphia Unfolded exhibition poster design by Joi Waller and Ann Mosher, 2026.



Wen Teh Chang waves the American flag during a parade in the Chinatown section of Philadelphia. Circa October 1965. Photograph by Richard Ronseberg. From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Collection housed at Temple University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

that make Philadelphia vibrant today. Fu's work embodies that spirit, highlighting cross-community connection and reminding us that the city's story is still being written.

See *Philadelphia Unfolded* at the Charles Library on Temple's main campus. The exhibition hours are Monday through Friday, 8am to 8pm; Saturday, 9am to 5pm; and Sunday, 12pm to 8pm. The exhibition runs through December 13, 2026.

Rev. Mark Knoll, a Redemptorist missionary (shown here), collected images from his life and ministry on the Island of St. Croix in the 1940s. Candida, like this funeral procession, are incorporated into his photo albums alongside more formal group photographs, such as the assembled children of St. Patrick's School in Fredericksted.

REDEMPTORIST ARCHIVE PARTNERS WITH THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE CARIBBEAN

Now accessible online from the Redemptorist Archives are electronic versions of two important photographic albums assembled by Father Mark Knoll, a Redemptorist missionary on the Island of St. Croix between 1938 and 1959. The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) will host both Knoll albums, making them [available online](#).

Knoll was an avid photographer of various scenes in the Virgin Islands, where he was a pastor. His subjects included the classes in the St. Patrick's Parish School, along with their teachers, the Canonesses of St. Augustine. Among the school photographs are formal groupings arranged by Axel Ovesen (1902-1972), an émigré from Denmark and a notable local photographer during this period. Thus, the albums are notable not merely for island history during this period, but also photographic history.

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province, as owners of the albums, retain all rights to the images contained in their pages but have licensed their use under a Creative Commons agreement with the dLOC, making them completely open sourced. The dLOC has nearly 400 additional item records pertaining to Redemptorists in the Caribbean, all of which may be accessed freely online.

• CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:

Ali Zawoyski
Ajz12@psu.edu



► VIRGINIA



2026 VIRGINIA ARCHIVES MONTH, REMEMBER ME: DEATH AND MEMORIAL

Every fall, the archival community in the commonwealth celebrates American Archives Month to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving and sharing cultural and historical documents from families, communities, states, and the country at large.

Previously observed as “Archives Week,” the Virginia members of MARAC worked over twenty years to educate others about archives starting in 2002. Expanding our activities to include the entire month of October in 2006, we have created posters, calendars, postcards, and zines to spread the word about the enduring value of archives.

In addition to handouts and resources, archives across the state host events and programs. These programs highlight collections, the work of archivists, and generally inform people about how they can engage with archives. The 2026 theme is Remember Me: Death and Memorial. [More information about programming, handouts, and archives related swag that helps support the Virginia Archives Month offerings can be found here.](#)

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY'S CARRIER LIBRARY OPEN AFTER THREE-YEAR RENOVATION

After a three-year closure for a complete renovation and a 57,000 square foot expansion, James Madison University's (JMU) Carrier Library officially reopened to the public on August 3, 2026. The newly renovated library has been thoughtfully reimaged to support teaching, learning, research, creativity, and scholarship for the entire JMU community.

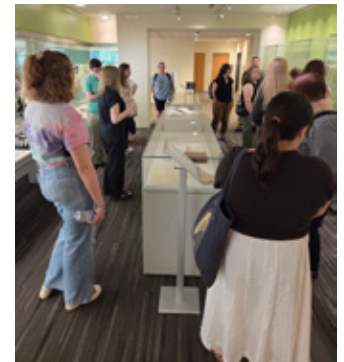


JMU Libraries' Digital Scholarship & Distinctive Collections (DSDC) Department features a service point, reading room, and dedicated classroom. The inaugural Distinctive Collections exhibit, “Won't You Be My Neighbor?": Town and Gown in the Friendly City, which explores the historic and present-day town-gown relationship between JMU and the local community, will be on display until May 2027.



VIRGINIA HOSTS ANNUAL CAUCUS MEETING AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

The Virginia Caucus annual meeting was held in Fairfax on June 5 at George Mason University's (GMU) Fenwick Library. The program featured a historic walking tour of the GMU campus; tours of the Special Collections Research Center and exhibition space; a presentation on the Fairfax-Spencer Family Recipe Book digital project; and a discussion on collection development and archives. Thirty-seven archivists from Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland attended the meeting.



- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:**
Mattie Clear
Mlclear96@gmail.com

► WEST VIRGINIA

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE:**
Grace Musgrave
(304) 293-7676
grace.musgrave@mail.wvu.edu

AWARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

FINDING AID AWARDS COMMITTEE

Committee members: Sarah Alender (Senior Co-Chair), Amanda Menjivar (Junior Co-Chair), Matthew Snyder, Isabel Folck, Deidre Johnson, and Lexy deGraffenreid

The Finding Aid Awards Committee is a subcommittee of the MARAC Awards Committee. It was established in order to recognize outstanding achievement in the preparation of finding aids by institutions within the MARAC region or by MARAC members and to promote improvements in this area by drawing attention to characteristics of successful finding aids. The committee is also responsible for awarding the Herbert C. Finch Online Publications Award, honoring online publications, including virtual exhibitions, websites and web pages, devoted to the promotion and use of archival materials.

This year, the committee has updated its awards cycle and submission process. In the past, submissions for the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award were due in July, and the award

was presented at the MARAC fall conference. This made the eligibility window for the Finch Award confusing, as it spanned two calendar years. Therefore, going forward, the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award will align with the schedule for the Fredric M. Miller Finding Aid Award. Nominations for both awards will be due by January 15, 2027, and both awards will be presented at the MARAC spring conference. For this year only, online publications published between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026 will be eligible for the C. Herbert Finch Award in order to account for the change in dates; beginning in 2027, both awards' eligibility periods will be January-December.

Rather than sending nominations by email, both awards will now accept submissions via Google web forms, which are available on the MARAC website under the respective pages for each award. The committee also has a new group email: FA_Awards@marac.info, which MARAC members can send questions to at any time regarding submissions.

It's Finally Here!

REGISTER FOR MARAC'S FALL 2026 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE TODAY!

Archives Adapting to a Changing World, October 28–30, 2026

If you're feeling overwhelmed and uncertain, you're not alone. In fact, there's a conference waiting for you! The speakers and interlocutors slated for *Archives Adapting to a Changing World* offer a balm for the weary archivist's soul, grounding their work in the profession's ethical mandates and leaving breadcrumb trails to something beyond survival for us and our communities: care.

Setting the stage, Joe Donnelly, Associate Director of Discovery Services at Colgate University, will deliver a plenary lunch talk on Wednesday entitled, "Navigating Burnout for ADHD Librarians: Build Models, Don't Burn Them Down."

Wednesday will conclude with afternoon caucus meetings and virtual tours with Q&A sessions. Thursday and Friday promise engaging and practical panels, discussions, poster Q&As, and social and networking opportunities. This conference's wide-ranging session topics unite around sustainability, advocacy, trust, community engagement, and collaboration, all essential components of adaptability.

Whether you attend every panel or pop in for a virtual tour or poster Q&A, there's something for everyone, from students to seasoned professionals and institutions both large and small.



REGISTER HERE!

Registration rates:

MARAC Member: \$40.00

MARAC Student Member: Free

Non-member: \$55.00

Non-member Student: \$10.00

Link to registration just in case:
<https://marac.memberclicks.net/fall-2026-virtual-conference>



**HOLLINGER
METAL EDGE**
ARCHIVAL STORAGE MATERIALS



Serving All Your Archival Needs



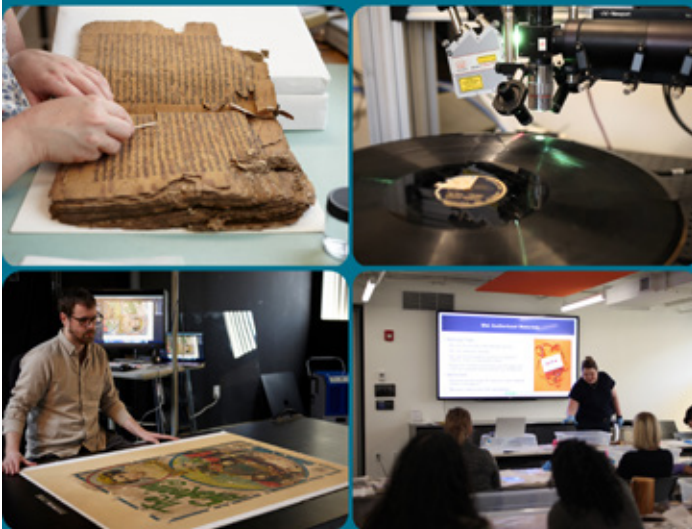
hollingermetaledge.com 1.800.634.0491

NEDCC

NORTHEAST DOCUMENT CONSERVATION CENTER

Preserving Cultural Collections Nationwide

Conservation • Digital Imaging • Audio Reformatting
Preservation Training & Assessments



nedcc.org



CERTIFICATION MATTERS

It provides a competitive edge

It strengthens the profession

It recognizes professional achievement and commitment



THE ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED ARCHIVISTS

www.certifiedarchivists.org

2025 Examination Information:

For more information about the Certified Archivist Examination, go to the ACA website:

<https://certifiedarchivists.org/2025-exam-info>

Contact us:

1400 L Street NW LBBY 2
#34141
Washington, DC 20005

PRESERVING THE PAST

Adapting for the Future

Archives are adapting to a changing world and preservation is more important than ever.

From microfilm and photographs to books, documents, and other valuable collections, The Crowley Company provides preservation-grade imaging solutions and digitization expertise to help organizations protect information, improve access and prepare their collections for the future.

Preserve what matters. Digitize for what's next.



CONTACT US

www.thecrowleycompany.com