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# Mid-Atlantic *Archivist*

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### Editor

Carolyn Friedrich

### Associate Editor

Lara Szypszak

### Advertising Editor

Jill Tominosky

### Caucus News Editor

Anna Juliar

Contact the editorial team at  
[maa@marac.info](mailto: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](mailto:maa@marac.info)

Online: [www.marac.info/membership](http://www.marac.info/membership)

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

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### On the Cover

Verona, New Jersey. Sewing the edge of an American flag at the Annin Flag Company. Marjory Collins, 1943 March. Safety film negative. Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/201784651/>

### To the Right

July 4th. F. A. Loumis, circa 1906. Photograph. Miscellaneous Items in High Demand, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2012646757/>

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# From the Chair

## DEB SCHIFF

### My Dear MARAC'ers,

Welcome to the Summer 2026 issue of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*. The very hard work of the Communications Committee's MAA Subcommittee can be seen in these pages. Thank you to all of you who create this excellent publication each season. I'm grateful to be a small part of it.

And now, more thank-yous. First, many thanks to Past-chair Zach Hottel for his leadership and mentorship during the past year. I appreciate your kindness and care for our membership and volunteers, as well as our Administrator, Sara Predmore.

A very big thank you to Sara, who has been an intrepid and friendly guide during my entire length of service on Steering, as well as during the first two virtual conferences. This past year, Sara and I spent many hours updating the Chair/Chair-elect Handbook, which has become my go-to for this service work. For all you do, Sara, thank you!

Thank you to all the folks who made the recent MARAC Spring Conference in Richmond possible. There are hundreds of moving parts to a conference. It takes leadership and good communication to make it run smoothly. Your dedication and efforts to make the conference useful, interesting, and welcoming to members and not-yet members cannot be overstated.

Thank you to all the volunteers across MARAC. I've enjoyed getting to know many of you on the Steering Committee and in previous service positions, and greatly appreciate your commitment to service. MARAC volunteers put their hearts and minds into their work, and the results are evident in every event, publication, and meeting.

What can you expect from MARAC in the coming year? Well, in short, a lot of questions. We will ask you, the member, what you want out of your MARAC membership. What does being a MARAC member look like to you at its best? What isn't working for you? How about networking opportunities? What do those look like to you? Do you want more hands-on workshops?

When I was a student member, and later, one of the most appealing parts of MARAC was attending great, practical workshops. They were inexpensive and provided by leaders in the field. I learned how to care for (and disbind—my favorite thing!) scrapbooks, how to write an effective grant, how to

manage archives projects, how to create custom housings, how to navigate the ever-moving target that is copyright in archives, and much more. Importantly, those workshops were also valuable networking opportunities where I could ask fellow attendees about their current projects and challenges. These were opportunities to learn much more about the field at large.

As part of thinking about where we want to go, we will also begin working on a new strategic plan. The world is very different from what it was at the start of the previous strategic plan. Now, we need to take the opportunity to examine what needs improvement throughout MARAC, and which paths are already taking us in the direction we wish to go. We will also explore where we want to end up and what it will take to get there.

The end of that process will be beyond my term of service, but our Chair-elect, Vin Novara, will be a valued partner in the strategic planning process. Plug for Vin—if you have not yet taken his Project Management for Archives Workshop, the next time he gives it, don't miss it!

Lastly, we will continue to foster partnerships with other organizations with similar missions. Thanks to Zach's leadership, we now have a partnership arrangement with the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) that allows our members to use their membership rates at their conferences, and NAGARA's membership to use our membership rates for MARAC conferences. We also hope to move toward similar arrangements with the other regional membership organizations.

So, keep an eye out for that member survey. But even before that arrives, please reach out to me at [chair@marac.info](mailto:chair@marac.info) with your thoughts about the future of MARAC.



Deb Schiff  
Chair, 2026-2027

# a Conversation

WITH THE NEW CHAIR, DEB SCHIFF



In 2017, the editors of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* started the custom of asking the incoming MARAC chair a series of questions to help introduce this individual to the membership. Deb Schiff, MARAC's 2026–2027 Chair, joins in this tradition, sharing a little bit of herself to MARAC members.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

My father had a regulatory affairs consulting business in our home when I was young. When I was old enough to work for him, he gave me many different types of jobs, ranging from talking with clients to proofreading documents to drawing a hand around a medical device. Definitely “other duties as assigned,” but well worth the experience.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?

Recently, I re-read *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy. It's beautifully illustrated and written. I could read it a thousand times and never tire of its meditative, thoughtful messages.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I enjoy gardening, developing new recipes for my granola side hustle, knitting, walking in the park, taking photos of what I encounter along the way, and watercolor painting.

## IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANY PERSON FROM HISTORY, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Ursula K. Le Guin. Among other books, I would love to ask her about developing her translation of the *Tao Te Ching* because some of her commentaries in the footnotes are very funny.

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MARAC MEMORY?

My favorite aspect of MARAC is that we are friendly, warm, and welcoming. From my first MARAC (Jersey City, 2009), thanks to all the attention paid to new folks, I felt at home in this organization. I was a student member in the process of earning my MLIS from Rutgers, and MARAC'ers took it upon themselves to introduce me to their professional friends at the conference. This networking is an essential part of my experience as a MARAC member. It's also led to very long and close friendships. Now, I get to be the one mentoring and connecting new archivists with my colleagues in the field.

Being an active member of the New Jersey Caucus has also been pretty special, from being a CAPES Consultant (and now Board member) to participating in the recent New Jersey Archival Film Festival. We're a fairly enthusiastic lot and overlap greatly with cousin organizations like the New Jersey Library Association's History & Preservation Section and the Princeton Preservation Group. As of this writing, I look forward to attending the next Caucus event this weekend, which will be the MARAC Innovative Archives Award Presentation at Montclair History Center.

## WHAT MIGHT WE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

During my senior year of college, I had a paid internship at the very new CNBC in Fort Lee, NJ, providing audio and camera support. All of the equipment I used was from the recent Seoul Olympics. I operated a camera on The Money Wheel, which was the morning program with Kathleen Campion and novice Neil Cavuto. I also mic'ed the stars and guests of the Dick Cavett Show and Morton Downey Jr. show, Showdown, among others. I have some interesting stories about that time, to be sure.

## WHAT IS THE MOST UNUSUAL OR MEMORABLE ITEM YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN AN ARCHIVAL COLLECTION?

Recently, I accessioned a collection of handcrafted items by the former head of the Industrial Arts Department, Fred O. Armstrong. He crafted a wide range of items out of copper, wood, and other materials, but the standouts are of copper. He made a beautiful, large copper bowl with a rim crimped to mimic a flower. I'm very fond of that piece. On the bottom is his imprint, which is a figure of himself holding a hammer over an anvil.

## WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEWCOMERS TO MARAC? OR ALTERNATIVELY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS OR NEWCOMERS TO THE PROFESSION?

Reach out to me! I encourage new archivists and archives workers to connect with me. Join the MARAC mentoring program to obtain a professional mentor. Join professional societies as a student because the rates are much lower. Participate as much as you can in your local professional societies and student groups. Network as much as you feel comfortable. Attend hands-on workshops and conferences where you can meet others in the field. Take tours of archives and museum spaces when they are offered. Tours are a great way to see the different types of archives and how the professionals there do their work. Hands-on experience is the best, so try to work in a local organization, such as a historical society. They will often write grants for funding, and if they like your work, you may get written into one of those grants.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Deb in her favorite walking location, Colonial Park in Somerset, New Jersey.

# Consistency Is What Preservation Depends On

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# Book Review

## FROM INTERROGATION TO INTEGRATION: CENTERING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, ARCHIVES, AND PRESERVATION

**REVIEWED BY:** DENTON WAITS, HEAD ARCHIVIST,  
SEMINARY ARCHIVES AT BISHOP PAYNE LIBRARY,  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

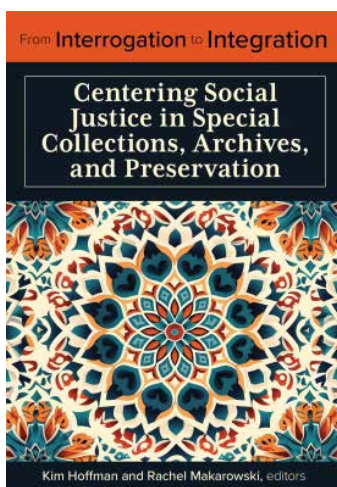
While the politicians and administrators increasingly attack institutional policies on diversity, editors Kim Hoffman and Rachel Makarowski seek to address the white supremacy that lies at the foundation of the archival and collections management professions. To achieve this goal, they gathered “concrete projects, with real-world takeaways,” that push institutions toward fuller diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).<sup>1</sup> The resulting work, *From Interrogation to Integration: Centering Social Justice in Special Collections, Archives, and Preservation*, provides examples that can be easily implemented by repositories wishing to interweave social justice practices into daily operations, thereby making it difficult for them to be removed by administrations that are hostile to DEI initiatives.<sup>2</sup> Hoffman and Makarowski chose to recruit case studies that were low-cost and not reliant on grant funding, then organized the thirty-seven chapters into the following subjects: Research, Description, Preservation and Access, Outreach, and Instruction.

These various sections allow the reader to explore diverse examples where repositories centered social justice into different projects. Shelby Herbert and Jeremy Brett show how preserving fictional maps (both fantasy and maps of intellectual concepts) challenge the power narratives found in traditional cartography. University of Maryland archivists, Douglas McElrath and Joni Floyd, detail how community archiving was used to facilitate reparative history concerning the institution’s involvement in slavery. Meanwhile, Valencia Johnson explains how Princeton’s Amp Up and Archive Ambassador Programs increased outreach by engaging students as creators to elevate their awareness of

cultural heritage preservation through digital archiving. While the many examples and studies allow archivists of various fields to glean from this volume, the lack of a central thesis or argument can leave the reader confused. The book would benefit from editorial introductions before each section to give clarity and identify unifying themes in the chapters.

The greatest strength of *From Interrogation to Integration* is the description section. These chapters are the most universally applicable, are quickly implemented, and cost-effective. They offer conclusions that help the reader implement practical changes for transforming repositories into agents of justice and reparation. Chapter six offers the steps taken by the Rockefeller Archive Center to create Culturally Competent (Re)Description.<sup>3</sup> These include identifying stakeholders, creating a new shared descriptive language, rejecting ego-driven claims of expertise, sharing examples with the larger community, integrating measures into daily practices, and collaborating across departments for long-term success.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, chapter eight offers recommendations for a small team from Central Michigan University. Their process focuses on updating problematic terminology by choosing a particular term to focus on, identifying the number of records affected by it, researching and consulting others (particularly the subject of the record), and then replacing the term with a new description. Then workflows need to be created to change the term through the repository and track the changes.<sup>5</sup> This method offers simplicity for places that lack staffing to support other suggestions found in the book.

This publication is useful to both professionals and administrators. It is exceptional for those who enjoy reviewing case studies, and its organization lends it to being used as a textbook, while the diverse nature of the chapters makes it a



Cover of the book, *From Interrogation to Integration: Centering Social Justice in Special Collections, Archives, and Preservation*. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2025.

1 Kim Hoffman and Rachel Makarowski, eds., *From Interrogation to Integration: Centering Social Justice in Special Collections, Archives, and Preservation* (Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2025), vii.

2 Ibid, viii.

3 Ibid, 85.

4 Ibid, 96.

5 Ibid, 115.

reference for a multitude of repositories and projects. It contains beneficial practices for both academic and public institutions, including universities, historical societies, and disaster response teams. These principles can also be implemented across departments. I was asked to lead a meeting for our library staff, and I chose to introduce them to the lessons learned from this book. As part of that presentation, I led our team through catalog searches showing how our library records were using the various problematic terms identified throughout the book. By doing so, we learned that even well-intentioned institutions still reflect the harmful attitudes that formed the profession. This revelation produced continuing conversations about revising our library's cataloging policies and procedures based on the projects presented by this work.

This book can assist professionals seeking to accomplish a variety of goals, be it cataloging, community engagement and archiving, or increasing access. However, encouraging restitution for oppressed communities is its main task. Each chapter challenges the reader to address the inherent bias and white supremacy that exist within institutions and the profession. Hoffman and Makarowski have curated a collection of examples and suggestions on how to address these problems, making it an excellent continuation of a conversation within the field. Archivists and librarians need to build upon this work to offer clear professional standards and guidelines, as well as offer support for those who find themselves in places that are hostile to DEI initiatives. This book challenges us to do this work and continue the conversation.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS *FOR THE* 2026 ARLINE CUSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

The Arline Custer Memorial Award Committee seeks submissions for its annual award recognizing the best books and articles written or compiled by individuals and institutions in the MARAC region. Works must be relevant to the general public as well as the archival community and published between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

**ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 31, 2026.**

Electronic submissions in PDF format of the entire work are encouraged. Submissions and a letter of nomination should be sent to: Senior Committee Co-Chair Allison Fischbach ([afischbach@jhu.edu](mailto:afischbach@jhu.edu)).

More information about the award may be [found online](#).

## EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR FINCH AWARD NOMINATIONS

**MARAC'S C. HERBERT FINCH AWARD IS GIVEN EACH YEAR TO RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE PUBLICATIONS DEVOTED TO THE PROMOTION AND USE OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS, CREATED BY INDIVIDUALS OR INSTITUTIONS IN THE MARAC REGION.**

The award was established to honor the memory and legacy of C. Herbert Finch, the former Assistant Director of Cornell University Libraries, who died on April 27, 2005. Managed by the Finding Aids Awards Committee—the call for nominees has historically taken place at the end of the MARAC year, for online publications created from July 1–June 30 of the preceding year, straddling two calendar years.

This year, the eligibility period for Finch nominees has been extended to a period of 18 months to encompass publications created between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026. The extension will align the eligibility period for both the Finch Online Publication Award and the Miller Finding Aids Award with the calendar year, starting with 2026 onward. Potential benefits include: a single streamlined call for nominees, a reduction in confusion surrounding eligibility dates for each award, and a greater opportunity for in-person recognition of the recipients of both awards at the spring meeting.

The Finding Aids Awards Committee will also be enhancing the submission process with the use of Google forms to gather nomination details, starting with the next call for submissions. Look for more information to come about the Finch and Miller awards later this year.

# ARCHIVES ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORLD

## VIRTUAL MARAC CONFERENCE | OCTOBER 28–30, 2026

**The ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, noted that change was the only constant.**

Our modern world certainly confirms that thought. Every day, whether a lone arranger, community archive, or a large-scale archive, we all deal with the impacts of greater globalization, technologies evolving at ever-increasing speed, shifts in environmental conditions, and fluctuating financial developments based upon all these factors.

How are archivists to respond? How can we best deal with the preservation and sharing of our collections in light of these changes, while making sure to record evidence of the changes themselves? We invite you to come and consider these questions at the Virtual Fall 2026 Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference this October. The theme of the conference is “Archives Adapting to a Changing World,” and there is much to consider as the profession moves into the second quarter of the twenty-first century.

Every day, archivists encounter changes both large and small, from shifting institutional priorities to fluctuations in staffing, tightening budgets, and decreased grant funding to the possibilities that technological changes and new Artificial Intelligence tools bring to our workflows. Seasoned professionals continually need to lean into new ways of preserving and assuring access to their collections, while those new in the field are finding ways to make their mark. Come join friends and colleagues for virtual plenary, member sessions, and posters that mine the collective wisdom of MARAC members and make connections. Let’s talk about how we all can face and work with change, embrace opportunities to collaborate and strengthen our profession, and ultimately meet our challenges and thrive.

In addition to all the sharing and learning, virtual MARAC conferences are an amazing bargain for all attendees. Registration fees will be low, with student members having the opportunity to register for free. With the convenience of attending from wherever you are, the virtual conference gives archivists throughout our region and beyond a simple way to fit in professional development and make connections. Please encourage your colleagues, interns, students, and supporters to register.

**More detailed information will be available on the [conference homepage](#) as fall approaches. HOPING TO SEE YOU ALL ONLINE OCTOBER 28–30, 2026!**

IMAGE CREDITS, TOP TO BOTTOM:  
Loki, the unofficial mascot of the 2026 Fall Virtual Conference.  
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# IN Memoriam

## ROBERT (BOB) W. ARNOLD III

Robert (Bob) W. Arnold III, age 80, passed on February 21, 2026. Bob made a lasting impact on public records management in New York State through his leadership, innovation, and dedication. He was also an active member of MARAC for nearly a decade, contributing meaningfully to the broader archival community.

Before joining the New York State Archives, Bob served as Albany County Historian and Executive Director of the Albany County Hall of Records, where he built a strong foundation in local government records administration. His career at the State Archives (1988–2006) was marked by achievements that continue to benefit records management programs statewide.

Bob helped lead the early development of the Local Government Records Program, emphasizing collaboration with municipalities and fostering a skilled network of local records managers. His work ensured that communities across New York had the expertise to properly manage, preserve, and provide access to their records. Among his most significant contributions was his leadership in creating the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) in 1990. This program has awarded millions in grants to support records storage, access, and retention projects, reflecting Bob's vision and persistence. He also established the Regional Advisory System, providing hands-on support and training to local governments through State Archives field staff.

Appointed Chief of Government Records Services in 1997, Bob expanded his oversight to state government records, revitalizing the State Records Center and improving retention schedules.

After retiring in 2006, Bob continued serving his community as a history instructor and Commissioner of Historic Resources for Albany. He will be remembered for his enduring contributions and commitment to public service.

# Handcrafted Gems: MARAC Silent Auction

BY MARGARET TURMAN KIDD

**LAST FALL, A NEW SCHOLARSHIP WAS CREATED IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, DANNA BELL, TO SUPPORT A GRADUATE STUDENT OF COLOR. MARAC NEEDED FUNDS TO MAKE IT A REALITY, AND OUR MEMBERSHIP ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE AND DID NOT DISAPPOINT!**

As Danna was a prolific knitter and crocheter, it was only fitting to hold an auction of handcrafted items. A remarkable 88 items from 45 donors were offered. In addition, scrubby cloths made from Danna's yarn stash were available for purchase. We had so many items that it was a challenge to squeeze everything into our allotted space!

Anticipation was high, with potential bidders arriving early to preview the offerings as setup was still underway. Even those who were unable to attend the conference got in on the action, with MARAC Development Coordinator Elizabeth Surles graciously offering to serve as a proxy bidder. It added to the drama as onsite bidders nervously waited to see whether Elizabeth was authorized to continue bidding. Some bidders held back, strategically placing last-minute bids as the auction drew to a close. Whether bidders lost out or emerged victorious, the event was enjoyable for all.

The amazing crafts from our talented donors really wowed the crowd and raised \$2,925, well exceeding our \$2,000 goal. Thank you to everyone for participating and making this such a successful fundraiser. I cannot thank the crafters enough for their generosity. I would also like to thank the volunteers who assisted with the setup, monitoring, and breakdown. Special thanks go to my co-organizer, Jessica E. Johnson, whose

support and organizational skills were indispensable on auction day. Extra special thanks go to Sara Predmore, without whom none of this would have happened, since she processes the payments! When the credit card reader stopped working, she quickly adapted by creating invoices so winners could complete their payments online.

We hope that there will be more silent auctions in the future. We were able to build on lessons learned from the first auction in 2022 (detailed in the MAA Winter 2023 issue). For example, this year we provided a poster outlining the auction rules, timeline, and notification process. We streamlined communication by emailing all the meeting attendees with the results rather than contacting winners individually. However, there is still room for improvement:

- **More space:** Even with a larger area this year, we still ran out of room. Future organizers may consider having the auction in its own room, if it can be arranged. It would also make setup easier as it would be out of the flow of conference traffic.
- **More onsite preparation time:** We worked on tagging items the day before, but finished minutes before the auction was scheduled to begin. So, build in some extra time to account for last-minute issues.

If anyone wishes to plan a future silent auction, Jessica and I would be happy to share our experience.

Photos of the 2026 MARAC Silent Auction to benefit the Danna Bell Graduate Student Scholarship courtesy of Melissa Davis and Morgan Miller Scarborough.

## CRAFTERS, DONORS, AND AUCTION VOLUNTEERS

Stephanie Akau  
Cori Lynn Arnold  
Teresa Bayles  
Sharmila Bhatia  
Diane Bockrath  
Marisa Bourgoin  
Chrystal Carpenter\*  
Tina Claflin  
Ruth Cody\*\*  
Bri Cronin  
Jane Cross  
Melissa Davis\*\*  
Kira Dietz\*\*

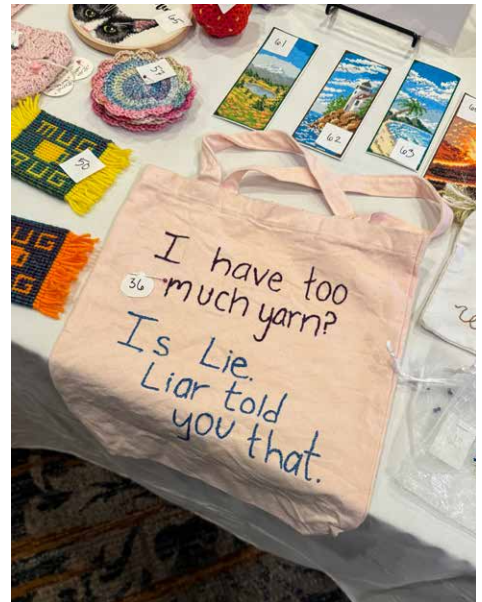
Melissa Erlandson\*\*  
Victoria Fernandez  
Sara Forrest\*  
Jen Gathings  
Danielle Glynn  
Amoi Goldman  
Lucy Hall  
MaryIn Jews  
Jessica E. Johnson\*\*  
Lynda Kachurek  
Margaret Turman Kidd\*\*  
Lorna Loring\*  
Ana Ramirez Luhrs

Sylvia Marshall  
Mary Ann Mason\*\*  
Amanda May\*\*  
Amanda Menjivar\*\*  
Susan Mitchem  
Sharon Monigold  
Heidi Abbey Moyer  
Grace Musgrave\*\*  
Sarah Newhouse  
Paige Newman\*  
Amy Poe  
Jen Pulsney  
Katie Rojas

Morgan Miller Scarborough  
Lindsay Sheldon  
Kim Sims\*  
Lindy Smith  
Cheryl Stadel-Bevans  
Laura Stein  
Elizabeth Surles  
Valerie Wingfield  
Liza Zakharova\*\*

\*Auction volunteer

\*\*Auction volunteer and crafter/  
donor





# Margaret Turman Kidd

## 2026 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Margaret Turman Kidd with Miss Chase.

**WE ARE HONORED TO RECOGNIZE MARGARET TURMAN KIDD AS THE WINNER OF THE 2026 MARAC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**, presented during the Spring 2026 Membership Meeting in Richmond, Virginia, on May 2nd. First awarded in 1992 in honor of MARAC’s 20th anniversary, the Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to MARAC, which have contributed to the success of the organization, as well as to the broader archival profession. This recognition is accompanied by a \$400 honorarium, provided through the generosity of Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc.

This year’s Distinguished Service Award Committee consisted of Ali Zawoyski, Cheryl Stadel-Bevans, Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh, and MARAC Historian Lauren Brown (ex officio). In presenting this award, we wish to acknowledge Margaret’s nearly two decades of exceptional MARAC service and leadership; her dedication to growing and sustaining regional networks; and her tremendous impact as an archival mentor and community-builder.

Over the past (almost) 20 years, Margaret has held several important elected and appointed MARAC positions, including Development Coordinator, Nominations and Elections Committee, Member-at-Large, Caucus Representative, and Local Arrangements Co-Chair. She has contributed extensive time and energy to MARAC’s Strategic Plan, the Operations Manual editing project, the Meeting Model Task Force, served on Local Arrangements Committees, and has been a key contributor to the Virginia Archives Month Committee.

Outside of MARAC, Margaret is well-respected for her publications, workshops, and presentations given at the state, regional, and national level. Her professional service also includes active participation in the ArchivesSpace User Advisory Council, the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, and the Society of American Archivists. She is especially lauded for her efforts to grow and support the Archival Resources of the

Virginias or ARVAS (formerly Virginia Heritage), a “consolidated database which provides information about the vast array of manuscripts and archival materials”<sup>1</sup> held in Virginia and West Virginia. Of that work specifically, a nominator said, “Margaret has quietly led the outreach effort to bring in new members and help members navigate the technical process in a very human way. [...] Most importantly, she has served in her position for a number of years, providing consistency, service, and helping that archival organization grow from eleven members to over fifty-two. There are few successful, long-term consortial archival organizations, and the reason ARVAS has survived—and thrived—is directly due to her volunteer service...”

Crucially, as MARAC Development Coordinator, Margaret organized not one, but two Silent Auctions, the first of which raised \$3,300 for graduate scholarships during MARAC’s 50th anniversary in 2022, and this year’s effort, for which she coordinated over 40 volunteers to raise funds for the Danna Bell Graduate Student Scholarship, specifically designated for students of color. As a nominator wrote, “Her most recent role as Silent Auction organizer is a good example of how she uses her leadership and organizational skills to create a successful program that left people feeling positive about their fellow archivists’ gifts, and added substantial funds to the Graduate School Archival Education Scholarship.”

Margaret was nominated not once but twice and received several endorsement letters. Her supporters emphasized Margaret’s “enormous initiative, enthusiasm, and teamwork,” and the fact that she “often takes on additional work that goes above and beyond what is expected,” noting her dedicated efforts to establish and maintain supportive documentation for initiatives like Virginia Archives Month—“an area where labor is often significant and unseen.”

As a nominator put it, “Margaret’s dedication to MARAC and the

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<sup>1</sup> “About – ARVAS,” Archival Resources of the Virginias, effective May 28, 2026, <https://arvasarchive.org/about>.

promotion of archival education, advocacy, and agency is clear in the many roles and positions in which she has served. She takes on both the large and small tasks needed for the organization to be successful. Margaret is cheerful in her service, well-organized, and is able to motivate others to participate and feel welcome. This is one of her outstanding traits: the ability to recognize potential and new members, help them navigate the conference and the work, and then lead them into leadership and organization roles for the health and longevity of MARAC.”

Above all, supporters spoke highly of Margaret’s mentorship and compassion. According to one, “Margaret was one of the first people to make me feel welcomed and a part of the organization. It was obvious from the first time I met her that she values and believes in MARAC. She’s one of the reasons I continued to keep my membership after leaving the Mid-Atlantic.” Another shared, “As a new archives professional, I quickly came to realize that the way Margaret created space for newcomers, and her efforts to cultivate a strong and active community of professionals within the MARAC community was unique, and represented a distinct ethos of service and care for others.”

As one letter writer concluded, “We need more archivists like Margaret Kidd and I can think of no better person to receive the MARAC Distinguished Service Award than her.” We agree and wholeheartedly congratulate Margaret on her service.

**I AM HONORED, AND STILL A BIT SHOCKED, TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD. MY HEARTFELT THANKS TO THOSE WHO NOMINATED ME AND TO MARAC FOR THIS RECOGNITION.**

MARAC is filled with fantastic people who continually inspire and energize me. It is such a supportive and welcoming group, and being part of it has made me a better archivist. I have gained so much from my involvement that it seemed only natural to contribute in whatever way I could to support the organization. Thank you for allowing me to serve this wonderful community of archivists and to learn and grow over the past 20 years.

If you have ever thought about getting more involved with MARAC, don’t hesitate. There is always something you can do: run for office, volunteer for a committee, or simply connect with your MARAC peers. You will be amazed at what you can accomplish and the lasting connections you will make.

**THANK YOU!**

*Margaret Turman Kidd*

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## ► DELAWARE

### BANCROFT FAMILY COLLECTIONS IN ENGLAND TO FIND NEW HOME IN DELAWARE

Gene Castellano, archivist for the Woodlawn Trustees, recently completed an archives review in England at the request of the Clark and Bancroft families. The Clarks are best known for creating Clark's Shoes, a global footwear brand that started in 1825 in Somerset, England. Woodlawn founder William Bancroft was an owner of Bancroft Mills, which in the mid-twentieth century was the largest cotton finishing company in the world. He founded Woodlawn to carry out thoughtful land development and provide affordable housing in Wilmington, Delaware. The business archives of Bancroft Mills and Woodlawn Trustees are now held at Hagley Museum and Library. Many family history records are also at the Swarthmore College Library and the Delaware Historical Society.

Sarah Bancroft, one of William's daughters, completed college at Cambridge University and then married Roger Clark, an executive at Clark's Shoes. She remained in England and continued active correspondence with her family, who preserved her papers related to her work as a trustee of Bancroft Mills. Those records were eventually deposited at the Clark Shoes Museum in Somerset. Castellano was invited by family members to review that collection and make recommendations about relocating it to appropriate institutions in the U.S. since the records don't fit with Clark's collection guidelines. He worked with Clark archivists in April and developed recommendations that are now being reviewed by them and family members. Most of these materials will be transferred to collections at Swarthmore, Hagley, and the Delaware Historical Society.

### TREASURES FROM THE FAMILY OPENS AT BRANDYWINE MUSEUM OF ART

*Treasures from the Family: The Gift of Betsy James Wyeth* is now open at the Brandywine Museum of Art's Strawbridge Gallery through November 8. Curated by Amanda C. Burdan, Ph.D., this exhibition consists of art and archival material from the major bequest Betsy Wyeth left to the Brandywine upon her death in 2020. *Treasures* highlights paintings held by the Wyeth family, many of which were on loan to Brandywine for decades. In addition to these familiar paintings, other works in the bequest showcase moments in N.C. Wyeth's career development such as a teenage self-portrait and his experiments with impressionist brushwork. Among the gems in the exhibition are examples of his early Western work that catapulted him to the top of the illustration field.



The Wyeth family at their Chadds Ford home, circa 1917, taken by N.C. Wyeth. N.C. Wyeth Correspondence Collection of Betsy James Wyeth, Walter & Leonore Annenberg Research Center, Brandywine Museum of Art.

In addition to guaranteeing the future care of the family's art collection, Betsy Wyeth ensured that her decades-long project of collecting and organizing the letters of N.C. Wyeth

would be continued by the Brandywine's Walter and Leonore Annenberg Research Center. Known officially as the "N.C. Wyeth Correspondence Collection of Betsy James Wyeth," the collection consists of thousands of letters, photographs, and other unique items that range from N.C.'s birth in 1882 through the condolence messages after his death in 1945. Betsy collected these letters from disparate sources, catalogued them, and published a selection in her book *The Wyeths: The Letters of N.C. Wyeth, 1901-1945*.

An assortment of these highly personal family documents and keepsakes is included in the exhibition, connecting the private lives of the Wyeths to the paintings, many of which are well known to Brandywine visitors. Among these treasures is a valentine given by N.C. Wyeth to Carolyn Bockius in 1904, before their marriage. A trove of family photographs, most taken by N.C. Wyeth himself, provides a glimpse of the talented Wyeth children as they grew up. His untimely death in 1945 shocked the family, who rushed to preserve many special mementos that are also part of this collection. N.C. Wyeth's last known correspondence with his son Andrew, written weeks before his death in 1945, will be included.

*Treasures* not only represents Betsy Wyeth's research on her family history, but also her understanding that both the paintings and the archives work in tandem to create a fuller, more contextual story of the Wyeths, not only as a remarkable group of artists, but as a family. Through her generosity, Betsy Wyeth has entrusted the Brandywine with the care of art works and her collected family history, which will now be publicly accessible for both enjoyment and scholarship in perpetuity.

#### • CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE

**Diane E. Bockrath**

(302) 658-2400 ext. 328

[dbockrath@hagley.org](mailto:dbockrath@hagley.org)

## ▶ DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### EDUCATION UNDERGRADUATES ENGAGE WITH ARCHIVES



In the spring of 2026, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Archives welcomed a class of undergraduate education students for a hands-on learning experience connecting course content with primary source research. This successful initiative grew out of a collaboration between UDC



education professor Jennifer Sparkman Bartee and UDC archivist Chris Anglim. This collaboration demonstrates how archival work can bring history to life in a direct and meaningful way. Together, they developed a structured learning experience in which students met in the UDC Archives to work on projects examining the evolution of teacher preparation in Washington, DC, as well as the ways UDC and its predecessor institutions contributed to public education and urban schooling.

**Research in Archives and Classroom Scholarship:** Through their work in the archives, students explored how public, Black urban education developed over time in Washington, DC, and investigated how UDC's institutional history intersected with broader changes in urban education. They also pursued student-chosen topics that helped them connect archival evidence to course themes; projects included UDC student demographics through time, campus locations and growth, Greek life, varsity sports, drama, music, and the evolution of its teacher preparation program. Through these projects, students examined the progression of education and used archival materials to interpret institutional change and its relevance to schooling in the city.

**Student Responses Indicate Strong Impact:** The students' reactions reflected the value of the experience. They overwhelmingly expressed enjoyment during their time working in the University Archives. Their positive engagement extended the project beyond the original schedule, with students requesting additional visits. At the end of the course, students also demonstrated confidence and pride in their work. When

asked about their projects and future participation in archival research, students reported they would want to participate in archival research again.

**A Model for Experiential Learning:** Overall, this collaboration between UDC education faculty and the UDC Archives provided an effective model for experiential learning—one that supported academic research skills while strengthening students' connection to educational history and institutional legacy. With enthusiastic student participation, strong learning outcomes, and a clear desire to return, the spring 2026 archival visits were a standout achievement for the course and a meaningful contribution to undergraduate education scholarship.

- **Jason Speck**  
(202) 243-3953  
jspeck@hillwoodmuseum.org

## ▶ MARYLAND



### REFERENCE ISN'T DEAD PRESENTATION HEADING TO SAA MEETING

Reference Archivists at the Maryland State Archives, are taking *Reference Isn't Dead* as a poster presentation to the

SAA Conference in New Orleans this summer! Morgan Miller Scarborough will also take the poster to the joint NCPH/AASLH conference this fall.

*Reference Isn't Dead* was one of the all-day workshops offered at the MARAC 2026 Conference in Richmond. It focused on building and maintaining patron-oriented reference teams while also providing patron-oriented reference care in all types of reference situations. Even though maintaining and providing records for our patrons is the core of our work, our field often feels the weight of the difficulties that come with serving the public and sees a relative lack of visibility through academic output and professional development. Whether or not you are a solo archivist, an archivist in a big agency, an archivist wearing a lot of hats, or frankly, anyone with any type of reference duties, the hope is that by taking this topic to multiple organizational gatherings, *Reference Isn't Dead* can turn into a broader movement in our field. After all, if we don't have patrons visiting to view and utilize the records we protect, are we archivists or just keepers of stuff?

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**  
**Jen Gathings**  
(301) 314-1296  
jgeidson08@gmail.com

## ▶ NEW JERSEY

### CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: DIVIDED LOYALTIES IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY EXHIBIT

As part of the nation's 250th anniversary commemoration, the Division of History and Historic Preservation presents *Caught in the Crossfire: Divided Loyalties in Middlesex County*, a new exhibition examining New Jersey's role in the American Revolution. The exhibition features artifacts and archival materials from Middlesex County, along with loans from institutions across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, including materials from Rutgers University Libraries' Special Collections & University Archives. The exhibit will be on display at the Cornelius Low House Museum in Piscataway from April 11 through Dec. 31, 2028.

### TOUR OF THE MONTCLAIR HISTORY CENTER AND PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 INNOVATIVE ARCHIVES AWARD



Laura Poll presents the Innovative Archives Award to Angelica Diggs, Executive Director of the Montclair History Center.

On Saturday, May 16th, the New Jersey Caucus proudly presented the Innovative Archives Award to the Montclair History Center (MHC). The award recognizes MHC's ongoing commitment to inclusive storytelling and deep commitment

to community engagement. MHC has re-interpreted the Crane House & Historic YWCA to highlight not only the Crane family (1796-1840) but also the enslaved people and servants who lived there, as well as the pivotal era (1920-1965) when the house served as a segregated YWCA for Black women and girls. This vital work led to the site's selection for the newly established New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. In addition, MHC launched an oral history initiative in 2018 to document stories from longtime community members emphasizing African American and Italian American heritage in Montclair. In 2023, this effort expanded to include the first Asian American oral histories into the collection through a partnership with AAPI New Jersey, further reflecting MHC's dedication to representing the full diversity of Montclair's history. After the ceremony, Executive Director Angelica Diggs treated everyone to an exciting tour of the Crane House & Historic YWCA Museum. Congratulations to Angelica Diggs, Erin Benz, the Board of Trustees, volunteers, and community members. This recognition is so well deserved!

## A MESSAGE FROM DIANE BIUNNO

It's been a privilege to serve as your New Jersey Caucus Representative. I've loved getting to know many of you, celebrating your achievements, and sharing the wonderful work you do. I'm excited to welcome Beth Zak Cohen as our next Caucus Representative. Beth is wonderful to work with, and I know you'll welcome and support her just as warmly as you welcomed me. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity. And if you see me at an event, workshop, or conference, please stop by and say hello!

### • CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE

**Diane Biunno**

(973) 353-3803

diane.biunno@gmail.com

## ▶ NEW YORK

### • CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE

**Melissa McMullen**

(518) 437-3933

mmcmullen@albany.edu

## ▶ PENNSYLVANIA

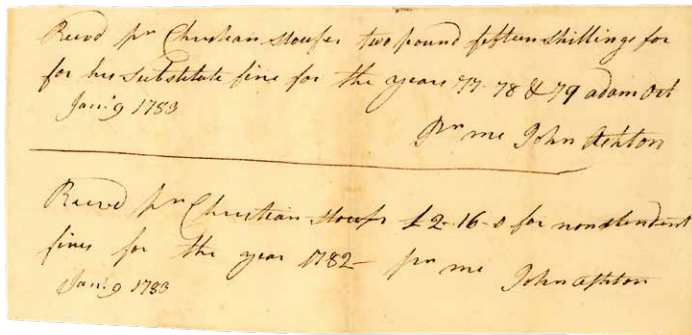
### AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Library & Archives is pleased to announce the launch of a new digital collection of correspondence in the [Pa Photos and Documents repository](#). An initial 1,000 pages of historical correspondence from the American Entomological Society (AES) are now accessible online with an estimated 18,000 pages in total to be added before the project's end. Work began in March 2026 and will conclude in early 2027. Will Le, project intern and current student in the University of Pittsburgh's Master of Library and Information Science program, is diligently working to scan each letter and create folder level descriptive metadata that highlights subject matter related to entomological topics, events, organizations, etc. commonly discussed within the correspondence while also uplifting documentary evidence and contributions of marginalized groups and individuals involved in scientific collecting and the study of insects.

The physical collection of correspondence contains over 7,000 handwritten and typed letters sent from more than 900 individuals to the [American Entomological Society](#) primarily from the Civil War era through the early Cold War period. This project will increase discoverability and access to this unique source material that documents the development of scientific knowledge and research networks in 19th and 20th century America and beyond. Funding for this project has

generously been provided by Dr. William Day and the American Entomological Society.

## MENNONITE LIFE CELEBRATES THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES



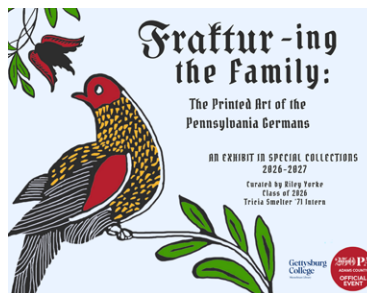
Receipt paid by Christian Stauffer (1736–1808), a Mennonite miller in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, for substitute and non-attendance militia fines, 1777–1779 and 1782.

Mennonite Life is excited to announce its new virtual exhibit “Lancaster Anabaptists and the American Story.” Beginning in 1711, when some of the first Mennonite settlers arrived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the exhibit examines the actions and interactions of Anabaptists from, or with ties to, the Lancaster area within and outside their own faith and cultural traditions as they navigate, and make history in, the United States of America. The exhibit features artifacts, archival materials, and books from Mennonite Life’s collections that are significant to local Anabaptist history as well as the wider American story.

Additionally, the July 2026 issue of Mennonite Life’s quarterly publication *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* will feature a transcription of selected entries from a Lancaster County “Return of Delinquents” militia ledger in Mennonite Life’s archives. Dating from 1792 to 1798, the ledger compiles records of men who did not attend mandatory militia drills. The entries include many Mennonite names and often list reasons for non-attendance, ranging from injury and illness to some who testified that they were “Conscientiously Scrupulous of Bearing Arms.”

Print and/or online access to *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* is available to all [Mennonite Life members](#).

## NEW EXHIBITION AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE: FRAKTUR-ING THE FAMILY

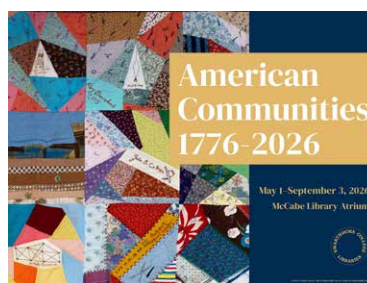


A new student-curated exhibit, *Fraktur-ing the Family: The Printed Art of the Pennsylvania Germans*, opened on Thursday, May 7, in Special Collections and College Archives, Musselman Library.

Curator Riley Yorke, Class of 2026 and the 2025-2026 Tricia Smelter Intern, selected 11 pieces from the Elizabeth H. Paul, Class of 1964, Collection of PA German Fraktur. Selections on exhibit feature decorative motifs such as birds, hearts, and biblical symbols. Fraktur, a distinctive printed art form developed by Pennsylvania-German communities, is known for sharp Gothic lettering and bright colors. Fraktur prints were often used to document important life events like births and baptisms. The exhibit also provides information about the artists, printing methods, and cultural traditions behind the works. Visitors can create their own fraktur certificates using stamps featuring designs from the collection.

*Fraktur-ing the Family* is an official America250PA – Adams County event. It will be on display in the Special Collections Reading Room through May 2027. To view it during the summer, [please contact Special Collections and College Archives for more information.](#)

## SWARTHMORE COLLEGE CELEBRATES AMERICAN COMMUNITIES 1776-2026



Poster for *American Communities 1776-2026*. May 1–September 3, 2026. McCabe Library Atrium. Swarthmore College Libraries.

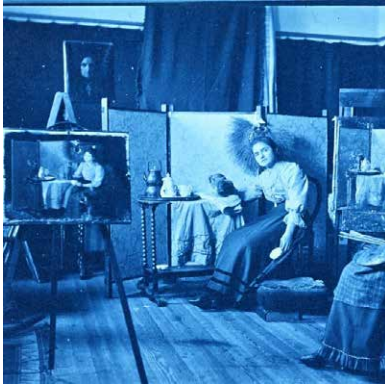
Swarthmore College Libraries marks “America 250” with a special exhibit in McCabe Library. [American Communities 1776–2026](#) celebrates the communities that together make the idea of “America” real, exploring family, land, and nation through art

and artifacts from the Special Collections. Over one hundred objects reflect on 250 years of individual stories. The exhibit is open to the public through September 3. It welcomes all visitors to explore their country and see its history.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**  
**Isaac Alexander**  
ijalexander105@gmail.com

## ▶ VIRGINIA

### FROM ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS TO ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS: ART PROGRAMMING IN ARCHIVES



*In the Artist's Studio.* Eva Leconte, circa 1890s. Cyanotype. Eva Leconte Collection, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, 1823-056

In October 2025, Archives Associate Nova Kulakowski came across cyanotypes created by a local artist in a shop in Winchester, Virginia. Nova was aware that the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives held cyanotypes attributed to Eva LeConte and Marianna Miller, and they thought a cyanotype workshop was the perfect

intersection of archival holdings and art. They also hoped to involve community members unfamiliar with the Archives through an art workshop.

In May 2026, Nova hosted a cyanotype workshop at the Handley Library with the help of a local artist. Eleven participants created cyanotypes using personal photographs

that Nova had converted into photo negatives prior to the workshop. Nova also provided various items, such as buttons, charms, etc., for participants to use in their cyanotypes. One participant created a cyanotype on the pants he was wearing with a dragonfly charm; another participant created cyanotypes on fabric!

Ultimately, the workshop was a success! This is the first time the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives hosted a cyanotype workshop, so Nova identified a few areas for improvement for future programming. It was a wonderful way to introduce an unfamiliar audience to archival holdings and the cyanotype process! The Stewart Bell Jr. Archives hopes to host more cyanotype workshops in the future to involve the community with its holdings in a creative, hands-on way.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

**Steven Bookman**  
(757) 683-5910  
sbookman@odu.edu

## ▶ WEST VIRGINIA

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

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

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# AWARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Whether you're a new, seasoned, or returning member of MARAC, you may know something about the Awards Committee. You may also have questions! So, for this issue of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*, I thought I'd take an opportunity to talk about what the awards and scholarship-related committees do, a recap of some recent activities, and provide a quick look at what we're working on next.

If we haven't met, I'm Kira Dietz, Assistant Director of Special Collections and University Archives at Virginia Tech and current Awards Committee Chair. The Awards Committee is made up of the chair, along with the chair or senior co-chair of each of the four individual awards committees: the Arline Custer Award, the Finding Aid Awards Committee (responsible for the C. Herbert Finch Award for Online Publications and the Frederic M. Miller Finding Aid Award), the Scholarship Committee (responsible for the Graduate School Scholarship, the Ronald L. Becker Award for Professional Development, the Marsha Trimble Meeting and Travel Award, the Joan Echtenkamp Klein Meeting and Travel Award, and the Karen A. Stuart Local History Collection Workshop & Conference Attendance Award), and the Distinguished Service Committee (DSA).

The Awards Committee, unlike some other committees, doesn't meet on a regular basis--though we communicate often! Each of the individual award committees has its own manual, workflow, process, and criteria for the portfolios they manage. The Awards Committee Chair serves as the liaison between these subcommittees and the MARAC Steering Committee.

In the last two years, the committee has made a handful of changes that I wanted to highlight here. With help and support from the MARAC Administrator and Web Team, we've updated our webpages, streamlining organization, removing outdated information, and rearranging the content. [Awards/Scholarships](#) now displays information by categories (professional achievement, educational and professional development, conference attendance, and service) rather than by individual award. We've also updated how we share information about past winners. Not all awards or scholarships have a public list of winners, but for those that do (Custer, Finding Aids, and DSA), we now display the most recent five years of awardees. Information about previous winners (as of now, anything prior to 2021) is accessible through a [public spreadsheet](#), organized by award and date. I'm indebted to chairs and co-chairs, as well

as the MARAC historian, for helping to unravel some mysteries uncovered while creating this sheet.

As chair, I'm also maintaining a more detailed sheet of award winners that the Awards Committee manages for MARAC internal use, and we're collaborating with Diversity and Inclusion to track conference session winners. The goal is for future Awards Chairs to keep these sheets up-to-date, following each conference and symposium, so we have a reference tool at hand when we need one!

The other major accomplishment in recent years is the new [Ronald L. Becker Award](#). First awarded in 2025, the Scholarship Committee chose the second awardee this spring and announced the winner at the meeting in Richmond. The Becker Award is MARAC's largest single monetary value award to date and provides up to \$1500 to support costs associated with professional development for a new professional in the archives field. So far, winners have used or plan to use funds to attend various workshops. The next round of the Becker Award will be in late winter 2027.

Looking ahead, the Awards Committee has a few things in progress. First: Thanks to many contributions from members and her family, MARAC has met our funding goal for establishing the Danna Bell Graduate Scholarship to support Danna's legacy. There are also a few changes to the Finding Aid Awards committee timelines to help improve the committee's workflow. This will affect the nomination process for the next couple of years, but we will communicate those details in the fall. Lastly, we are reviewing individual committee manuals and then updating the overall Awards Operations Manual.

I want to wrap this update with a major thank you to my amazing colleagues who serve, chair and/or co-chair the Custer, DSA, Finding Aids, and Scholarship Committees. Without all their time and thoughtful review, we wouldn't have winners to share. In future issues of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*, individual committees will share more about their work. In the meantime, I encourage you to keep nominating yourself and your colleagues—with your help we can continue to highlight the excellent work, scholarship, and learning of the MARAC membership.

# Preservation Island, Ahoy!

## IMPROVING EFFICIENCY IN OVERSIZE STORAGE AND WORKSPACE

by Amanda Menjivar, Manuscripts and Archives Librarian and  
Amy Sullivan, Preservation Officer, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

### LESS-THAN DESIRABLE “STORAGE”

In an archive, you can never have too much storage or too many workspaces, especially for oversized items. As a means to amp up ours, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at George Mason University Libraries was recently able to create a solution for both.

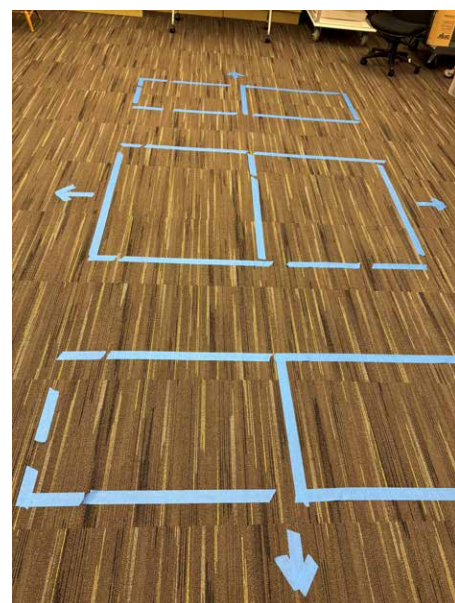
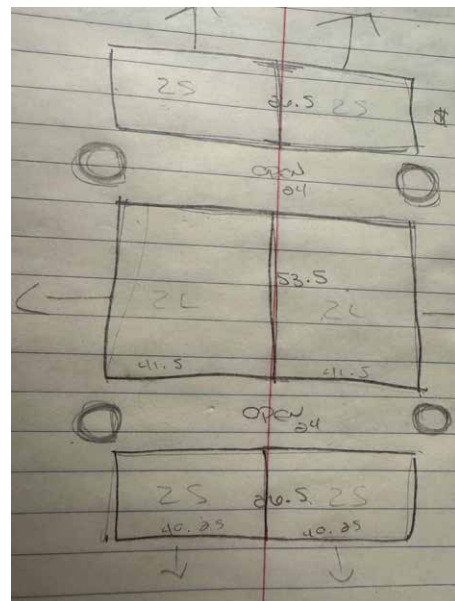
In the past, SCRC had a makeshift “workspace” in our closed stacks area, near a grouping of map cases that lined the walls. This consisted of two uneven, wobbly tables and a couple of chairs that essentially served as a dumping ground for various projects, materials that needed further appraisal, and inefficient supplies storage. The space was practically unusable for prepping for researcher visits and made safely pulling oversized materials out of map cases almost impossible. As such, we endeavored to improve the efficiency and utility of this space, but not without our fair share of roadblocks and snafus.

This project began in 2019. Amanda Menjivar had been trying to find a solution for improving the workspace, but was coming up short. She then consulted with Amy Sullivan who had the idea for improving our closed stacks workspace with a design based on the workstations in her preservation lab (we will go more into the specs of this design later). After measuring, measuring again, and then measuring once more, Amy located the materials required for this permanent workstation, created a budget, and the project was proposed and approved by SCRC’s Director. Hoist the colors! This ship was set to sail...or was she?

### A SCREECHING HALT

Cue 2020—a global pandemic and vastly reduced budgets pulled this project to a screeching halt. For a year and a half, SCRC members worked remotely and then in staggered hybrid shifts. This project was at the bottom of the priorities list, an unfunded dream that we hoped would manifest eventually. By 2022, the Libraries returned to a mostly in-office hybrid work model, and the glaring issues and lack of efficiency of this space reared their ugly head. But we didn’t quit, re-proposing Preservation Island each fiscal year until it was finally funded and installed in January 2026. Huzzah!

Preservation Island—as SCRC has so lovingly dubbed it—now gives us the flexibility to safely handle oversized materials, work on large preservation projects, and prepare for researcher appointments and classes. It also serves as an alternate workspace within our closed stacks to create ease of access to materials for processing. The high-quality materials and careful planning also ensure that it can be used for years to come.



TOP: Original sketch of our vision for the map cases.

BOTTOM: The floor layout that determined how much room we required around the map cases and showed the direction of drawer openings for installers.



## SPECS TO CREATE YOUR OWN PRESERVATION ISLAND

Using a combination of map cases (also called flat file cabinets) and maple wood\* butcher block countertops, we created an “island” of 7x13 feet. This size was determined by laying out the outline in the space with painter’s tape on the ground as a placeholder. We wanted to ensure such a workspace wouldn’t hinder existing SCRC workflows. We tested the space with established map case drawers open, and moving carts—large and small—around the space. It worked!

Then, it was determined that two sets of double-stacked small flat file cabinets would sit side by side on four-inch bases at each end. In addition, there would be two sets of double-stacked large flat file cabinets placed back to back in the center, which left us with kneeholes for four archivists (or preservationists!) to work comfortably at the same table. These kneeholes are also useful for storing carts, tubes, boxes, or anything that can be tucked away until needed again.

*(see box for details)*

\*Maple wood won’t offgas, preventing damage to collections.



TOP: The map case base that was built prior to the maple butcher block installation.

BOTTOM: And the final result, ready for use. Amanda stands proudly behind “Preservation Island.”

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Small flat file cases (+ 4 bases): 8 @ 40.5x26.5”
- Large flat file cases (+ 2 bases): 4 @ 53.5x38.5”
- Butcherblock: 1.5” maple, manufactured in 6 pieces to stagger seams, assembled on site
- Kneeholes: 24”
- Total dimensions: 7x13’, 41.5” tall

### QUESTIONS TO ASK/REMINDERS BEFORE INSTALLING YOUR OWN PRESERVATION ISLAND

- What space do we have?
- What do we need to be able to do in that space?
- How can we optimize its utility?
- What products are available and how can we configure them to best suit our needs?
- Measure! Over and over!
- Make models and test them. Then revise them.
- Get others to check your work!
- Keep trying and refining until you get it right.
- Price it out and keep submitting proposals until you get it funded.

# Lunch at Ông Bà Ngoại's: Community Archival Practices as Invitations for Healing

By Claire Nguyễn, graduate student at the University of Alabama School of Library & Information Studies  
Recipient of the MARAC Graduate School Archival Education Scholarship

**“ÔNG WAS AN ARCHIVIST!”** my mother exclaims during our recent visit to my grandparents’ apartment. She hands me a dark brown binder: her newest discovery rummaging through my late grandfather’s belongings. I open the binder to find pamphlets, meticulously arranged in sheet protectors in chronological order from August 1982 to November 1996.

Titled “Đệ Nhị Kim Ngưu / Nối Vòng Tay Lớn” or “Second Golden Bull / Linking Hands in Brotherhood,” these monthly newsletters continued my grandfather’s comradeship with his classmates from the South Vietnamese Naval Academy after the American War in Việt Nam displaced them across the globe. Sifting through the ordered pamphlets, I discovered hand-transcribed sheet music of Vietnamese songs about the nostalgia for a lost homeland; prose about the travesties of growing old; and detailed financial reports about monthly expenditures for annual reunions. The pamphlets document how the “Bulls” found and reconnected with more friends each year and how their monthly dues contributed to a mutual aid fund that supported members facing financial hardship in their new corners of the world.

Ông was a military man through and through. He took diligent care of his personal belongings and instilled in me

Two charts from newsletters documenting the paid monthly member dues in 1983 and 1996. The charts are titled "Bảng Phóng Khấu (Mẫu cuối)" and "Đệ Nhị Kim Ngưu NGUYỄN LIÊM 1996". They list names and amounts in columns.

TOP LEFT: First page of Đệ Nhị Kim Ngưu Volume 22, Number 3: September 1982 that features handwritten sheet music to a song titled “Tình Đất” or “Nostalgia.”

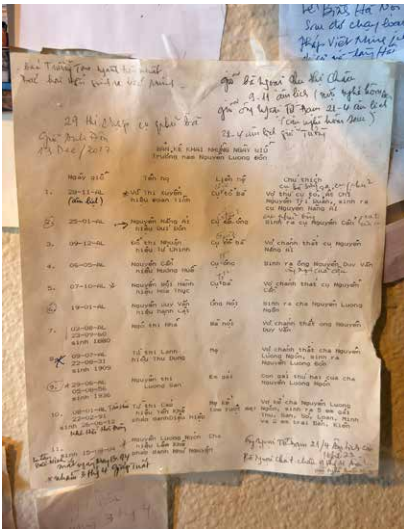
TOP RIGHT: Charts featured in two different issues of Đệ Nhị Kim Ngưu newsletters documenting the paid monthly member dues in 1983 and 1996, illustrating how members of the Bulls continued to reconnect with each other each year.

ABOVE: Bà’s photo and memento arrangement on her dresser.

the importance of knowing history. While he did not know to remove the staples from the pamphlets or to write notes using pencil, Ông knew intuitively that he needed to save these pamphlets for long-term use and storage to document how the Bulls—and the larger Vietnamese refugee community—supported each other in rebuilding their lives as refugees, even scattered across the world. Numerous other binders full of cataloged family and community mementos continue to survive my grandfather as a direct result of the painstaking processes he practiced for me and his other descendants to learn from.

In the rigorous ways my grandfather kept order in his life, my grandmother outdoes his precision with her disordered hoarding. Over the years, Bà has drowned every open surface

in their two-bedroom apartment with thousands of photos. There are some larger frames on the walls with more formal portraits, but printouts primarily swallow the coffee table, her dresser, bathroom mirrors, and even the stove’s backsplash. An initial glance of her photographic disorder may prompt one to say that she does not have the same archival instinct as my grandfather, but this could not be further from the truth. She uses the disordered arrangement of her photos and sticky note reminders to protest her dementia, and my brother and I often sift through her messy arrangements to fill gaps in family stories.



LEFT: Bà's catalog of the Nguyễn Family's ancestors and their memorial dates.



RIGHT: Bà's altar for Ông and his parents.

long-standing cultural practices. Both my grandfather's order and my grandmother's disordered order have demonstrated to me how community archiving practices often blur the conventional boundaries between the archivist and the user. Our records embody the inherent *mess* that deeply informs our subjectivity as displaced survivors of wartime and American systems that exacerbate poverty. There is inherent mess through the ways our photos and documents agitate the memories of the pain we have endured and what we have done to survive. However, the act of sifting through the mess enables us to resist it. It is our deep cultural practice—as our family altars embody—to create portals for witnessing and healing from our trauma through our own cryptic, varied forms of intellectual control.

This year, I began the preliminary stages of building the Taking Root Archive, a new Philadelphia-based post-custodial archive project on the Southeast Asian refugee resettlement experience in the U.S. Healing is a key value of the archive, which aspires to utilize experimental archival practices that are trauma-informed and culturally relevant to our multi-ethnic community with Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian refugee roots. While asking community members to loan photos for digitization, I have received many questions from them about the purpose of archiving our records, especially those of painful memories of our resettlement experiences. In response, I return to what they know: the photo albums, the binders, our family altars, the mess. They instantly get it.

In a world that continues to shake with instability and injustice, archival practices become important invitations for healing for my refugee community that still grapples with intergenerational trauma. It is the weight of facilitating healing through archival processes that defines how I view my responsibility as a community archivist. I am grateful I continue to be reminded of this during lunch at Ông Bà Ngoạì's.

*All images courtesy of Claire Nguyễn*

Though she struggles to complete daily tasks like remembering to eat dinner each night, Bà fiercely maintains three separate bookcases that house 20 personalized altars of our ancestors. A devoted Vietnamese wife, mother, and daughter, she offers each ancestor home-cooked meals and incense in return for protection, prosperity, and peace multiple times a day. Taped onto a wall amongst the sea of photos is her catalog of all our ancestors and their memorial dates that documents generations of our lineage. Family altars remain a foundational centuries-old practice of Vietnamese memory work, and I argue are kinds of archives that preserve our lineages for long-standing use through ancestor veneration.

In paradoxical ways, my grandparents sought to order their lives through both self-directed and

# New Members

## March 2026

Sydney Arcuri . . . . . *Student at University of Maryland*  
Eric Benoit . . . . . *SC Strategic Solutions*  
Joanne Bowen . . . . . *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*  
Kathleen Brown . . . . . *Self Employed*  
Nicole Connell . . . . . *Johns Hopkins University*  
Indira Douglas . . . . . *New Brunswick Theological Seminary*  
Sierra Duncan . . . . . *Social Security Administration*  
Emma Eubank . . . . . *Archives of American Art (Contract)*  
Afua Ferdnace . . . . . *William & Mary*  
Karma Foley . . . . . *United States Senate*  
Timothy Hicks . . . . . *University of Maryland, College Park*  
Rachel Jenkins . . . . . *Photo Archivers*  
Elle Kim . . . . . *Library of Virginia*  
Emily Kokotajlo . . . . . *Pratt Institute School of Information*  
Irene Lewis . . . . . *Johns Hopkins University*  
Maria Christina Mairena . . . . . *Diocese of Richmond, Virginia*  
Elizabeth Malone . . . . . *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*  
Emily Mizokami . . . . . *California State Railroad Museum  
Library and Archives*  
Lex Nowak . . . . . *Chubb*  
Connor O'Brien . . . . . *New York University School of Law Library*  
Emma Semrau . . . . . *University of Virginia*  
Elise Steenburgh . . . . . *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*  
Brittany Strobel . . . . . *Virginia Museum of History and Culture*  
Lauren Stuparitz  
Peter Sutton . . . . . *Loyola Notre Dame Library*  
Hannah Thoms . . . . . *National Geographic Society*  
Maria Vivar-Guzman . . . . . *University of Maryland, College Park*

## April 2026

Dylan Bails . . . . . *University of Maryland, Slavery, Law,  
and Power Project*  
Gianna Brassil . . . . . *San Jose State University*  
Megan Brett . . . . . *Thomas Jefferson Foundation*  
Meggan Cashwell . . . . . *Claude Moore Health Sciences Library,  
University of Virginia*

Corinne Chatnik . . . . . *Union College*  
Jazmine Collins . . . . . *Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center*  
Bart Everts . . . . . *Rutgers University Libraries*  
Adam Freeman . . . . . *University of Maryland*  
Jennifer Fremont . . . . . *Tiny Archives*  
Lauryn Gilliam . . . . . *Virginia Commonwealth University*  
Matthew Green . . . . . *National Archives*  
Ren Harman . . . . . *Virginia Tech*  
Kim Harvey . . . . . *ODU MLIS Graduate Student*  
Sarah Hopley . . . . . *CUNY Dominican Studies Institute*  
Luke Kelly . . . . . *Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center*  
Hannah Lee . . . . . *Rutgers University*  
Katelyn Legacy-Roulston . . . . . *Northern New York Library Network*  
Constance Li . . . . . *University of Maryland, College Park*  
Nicole Menchise . . . . . *Long Island Library Resources Council*  
Michael Mendoza . . . . . *University of Maryland, College Park*  
William O'Hara . . . . . *Gettysburg College*  
Tristan Smith . . . . . *New Jersey State Archives*  
Michael (Tac) Tacelosky . . . . . *Museado Foundation*  
Tammy Tran . . . . . *Thomas Balch Library*  
Savannah Tweeddale . . . . . *Old Dominion University MLIS Student*  
Eleanor Vander Laan . . . . . *University of Maryland*

## May 2026

Brendon Blackson . . . . . *Morgan State University*  
Tricia Edwards . . . . . *Smithsonian Libraries and Archives*  
Linda Hocking . . . . . *Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School*  
Lynn Kawaratani . . . . . *Carnegie Mellon University*  
Myren Mitchell . . . . . *Marist University*  
Ezekiel McGee . . . . . *Student*

# Treasurer's Report

FISCAL YEAR 2026 • 3RD QUARTER • JANUARY 1–MARCH 31, 2026

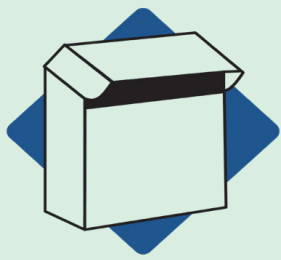
<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Budget</u>
<b>INCOME</b>							
Membership Dues	\$45,000.00	\$28,470.00	\$2,932.00	\$4,369.00		\$35,771.00	79%
Conference Registration	\$62,500.00	\$4,775.00	\$4,400.00	\$50,142.00		\$59,317.00	95%
Conference Vendors	\$14,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,100.00	\$9,825.00		\$15,425.00	110%
Conference Sponsorship	\$4,500.00	\$500.00	\$6,549.00	\$2,600.00		\$9,649.00	214%
Publication Advertising	\$1,800.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$0.00		\$880.00	49%
Publication Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
VA Caucus Event	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Off-Meeting Workshops	\$4,000.00	\$1,325.00	\$1,030.00	\$0.00		\$2,355.00	59%
Bank Interest	\$1,800.00	\$612.43	\$1,013.86	\$938.34		\$2,564.63	142%
Investment Interest	\$3,500.00	\$1,365.75	\$1,111.22	\$311.61		\$2,788.58	80%
Gifts to Operations	\$900.00	\$180.00	\$420.00	\$0.00		\$600.00	67%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$231.65		\$231.66	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$138,500.00</b>	<b>\$41,168.18</b>	<b>\$19,996.09</b>	<b>\$68,417.60</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$129,581.87</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Administrator	\$22,000.00	\$6,695.84	\$4,381.14	\$4,396.40		\$15,473.38	70%
Web Services	\$9,450.00	\$8,816.86	\$497.06	\$279.09		\$9,593.01	102%
Archivist	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	100%
Accountant	\$3,325.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Advocacy	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Insurance Policy	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Phone	\$625.00	\$79.15	\$90.00	\$90.00		\$259.15	41%
Postage	\$150.00	\$34.26	\$39.42	\$29.58		\$103.26	69%
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Food	\$4,250.00	\$0.00	\$36.78	\$0.00		\$36.78	1%
Travel	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$174.68	\$0.00		\$174.68	14%
Equipment	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Printing and Design	\$3,700.00	\$520.26	\$375.00	\$675.00		\$1,570.26	42%
Conference	\$75,000.00	\$2,930.54	\$9,710.15	\$201.93		\$12,842.62	17%
Lodging	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$154.29	\$0.00		\$154.29	13%
Honoraria	\$2,800.00	\$250.00	\$700.00	\$200.00		\$1,150.00	41%
Awards and Prizes	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00		\$300.00	16%
VA Caucus Event	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Banking Fees	\$7,000.00	\$1,861.76	\$1,072.10	\$772.32		\$3,706.18	53%
Investments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Miscellaneous	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$250.00	63%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$138,500.00</b>	<b>\$21,188.67</b>	<b>\$17,780.62</b>	<b>\$7,644.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$46,613.61</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Net Income or (Loss)</b>		<b>\$19,979.51</b>	<b>\$2,215.47</b>	<b>\$60,773.28</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$82,968.26</b>	

<u>Account Balances</u>		<u>Opening</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Closing</u>	
PNC Checking	\$140,520.97	Operating	\$22,194.98	\$68,417.60	(\$7,644.32)	\$82,968.26
PNC Savings	\$173,238.17	Restricted	\$159,357.49	\$26,675.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$185,032.49
Vanguard Bonds	\$98,551.18	Reserve	\$48,475.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,475.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$412,310.32</u>	Surplus	\$95,834.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95,834.57
		Totals	\$325,862.04	\$95,092.60	(\$8,644.32)	\$412,310.32

### Summary - Third Quarter FY 2026

Opening Balance	\$325,862.04
Total Income	\$95,092.60
Total Expenses	(\$8,644.32)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>\$412,310.32</u>

<u>Restricted Funds</u>		<u>Opening</u>	<u>New Gifts</u>	<u>Spending</u>	<u>Closing</u>	
PNC Savings	\$86,481.31	Disaster Assist.	\$28,318.50	\$0.00	\$28,318.50	
Vanguard Bonds	\$98,551.18	Education	\$103,352.85	\$125.00	\$103,477.85	
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$185,032.49</u>	Graduate Schol	\$23,005.14	\$26,550.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$48,555.14
		Finch Award	\$4,681.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,681.00
		<u>Total</u>	<u>\$159,357.49</u>	<u>\$26,675.00</u>	<u>(\$1,000.00)</u>	<u>\$185,032.49</u>



# HOLLINGER METAL EDGE

ARCHIVAL STORAGE MATERIALS



*Serving All Your Archival Needs*

