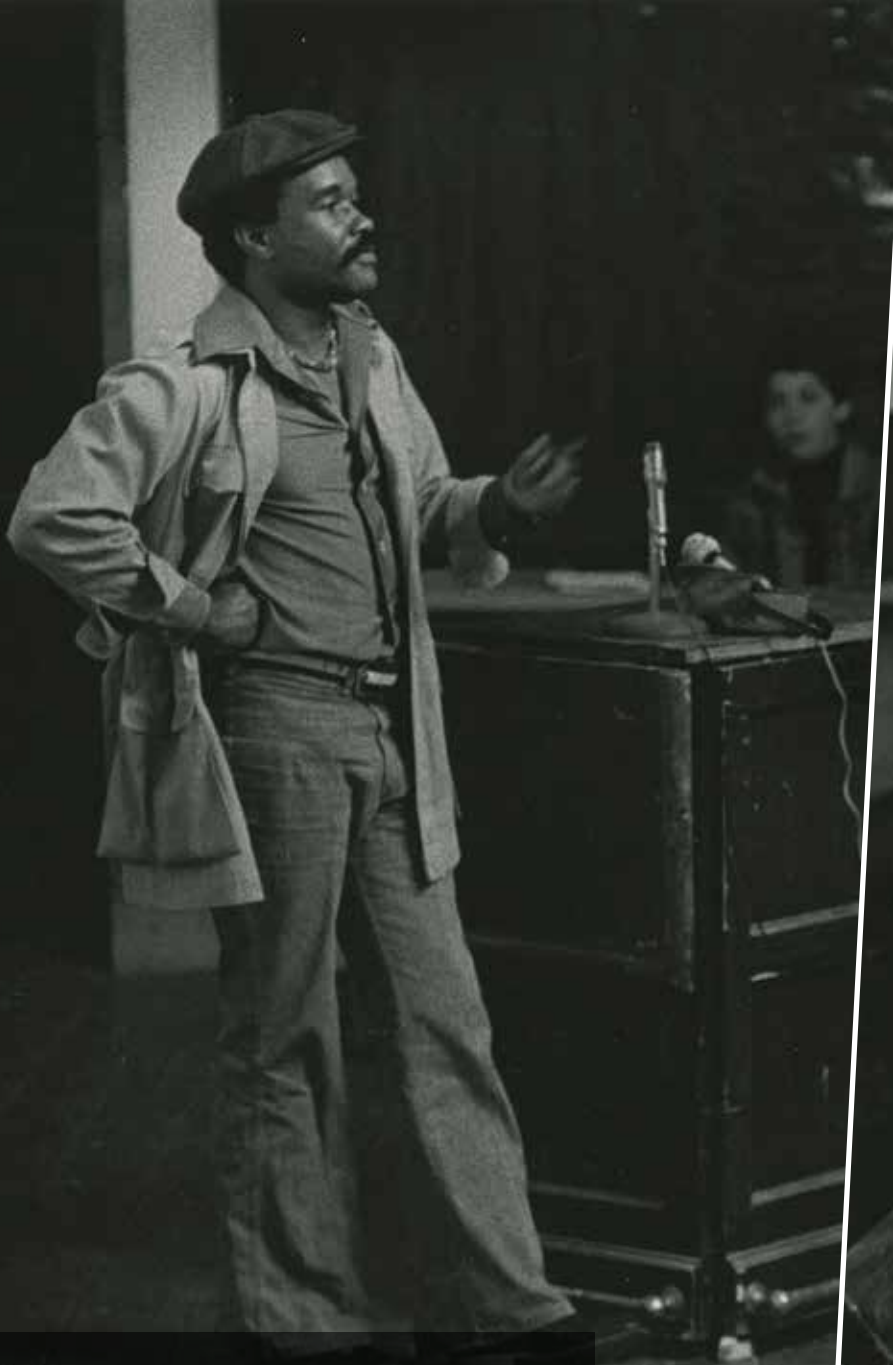


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Mid-Atlantic *Archivist*

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



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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 is not open to institutions, but institutions may purchase subscriptions to MAA at \$60 per year.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

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Email: maa@marac.info

Online: www.marac.info/membership

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

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On the Cover

David C. Driskell during his guest lecture at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, 1975. David C. Driskell Papers, MS01.11.01. P0280. Courtesy of The Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park.

To the Right

Farmhouse and small barns in a Monroe County, West Virginia, autumnal rural scene. Highsmith, Carol M., October 21, 2015. Photograph. West Virginia Collection within the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2015634321

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From the Chair

ALI ZAWOYSKI

Hi Folks,

Welcome to the Fall 2024 *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*! As we celebrate a new season, a new academic year, and the return of many of our favorite holidays and sports, let's look at what MARAC has been up to since our last issue—and what exciting events lie ahead!

By the time you read this, the Education Committee and the Delaware Caucus will have hosted the inaugural Caucus Conversation, "Moving Your Collections," featuring practical insights from Katheryn Lawson (Archivist-Historian, Nemours Estate) and Susan Kirk Ryan (Archivist, Catholic Diocese of Wilmington). Thank you to Delaware Caucus Representative Diane Bockrath, the Education Committee, and our speakers for kicking off this new partnership. Bookmark the [MARAC Webinars & Workshops page](#) to stay up to date with future Caucus Conversations and other educational programming!

Planning is in full swing for the November 13–15 Virtual Conference, "Renaissance & Renewal," inspired by the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance. Join us for three days of online learning and networking focused on creativity, advocacy, versatility, and innovation in archival work! For registration information and additional details, check out the [conference page](#). Thank you to Program Committee Co-Chairs Megan Craynon and Hillary Kativa and Virtual Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs Scott Keefer and Colleen McFarland Rademaker for all your efforts thus far.

All MARAC Members are invited to attend the Fall Business Meeting, which will take place over Zoom on Thursday November 14 at noon, regardless of whether you are attending the virtual conference. This meeting is free of charge and will feature updates from the Steering Committee, awards, and programming announcements. Watch your email for a link!

The Awards and Scholarship Committees are continuing to finalize details for the new [Ronald L. Becker Award](#), which will provide much-needed support for new professionals to grow their careers. MARAC anticipates presenting the first award in 2025; watch for details on how to apply in the coming months. Want to help? We are actively searching for a Development Coordinator to help us fundraise for initiatives like the Becker Award, and to help the Finance Committee invest in our future. If you have financial experience, please email treasurer@marac.info for more information!

Finally, mark your calendars for our upcoming in-person conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on May 1–3, 2025. Stay tuned for announcements on the [conference page](#) and plan to join your MARAC colleagues as we celebrate our accomplishments, share our challenges, and find inspiration for the future.

Thanks for reading, and I'll see you all at the virtual Business Meeting this November!



Sincerely,
Ali Zawoyski

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Zawoyski". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chair, 2024-2025

REFLECTING ON THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

AN INVITATION TO THE FALL 2024 VIRTUAL MARAC CONFERENCE

FALL IS UPON US AND THAT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING—IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT NETWORKING, LEARNING, AND CELEBRATING WITH FELLOW ARCHIVISTS AT MARAC.

As we leave summer behind and embrace the fall foliage, we also acknowledge that winter is coming; let's enjoy the changing colors, the cooler temperatures, and the low cost of attending the virtual Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference! Our standard fare of plenary, member sessions, tours, and posters will all make an appearance in the virtual world, November 13–15, 2024.

Our theme for the conference is Renaissance & Renewal, and we have an exciting array of presentations that highlight the impressive work that we do as archivists. The inspiration for this theme is the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance! What exactly do we mean when we call something a “renaissance?” At its root, a renaissance is “a new growth of activity or interest in something, especially art, literature, or music.” In 1920s Harlem significant changes were happening in all three of these areas as African Americans moved from the rural South to the urban North seeking employment opportunities and better lives for their families.

The changes taking place in the archives field today, in some ways, also represent something of a renaissance. Ongoing

efforts to repair terminology and metadata in legacy finding aids, promote social justice, and highlight under-represented voices in the archives are underway. We are all thinking about artificial intelligence (AI) and how this new technology will affect our work. Similarly, archivists everywhere are working on digital projects of all kinds that will make our collections more accessible. And where would we be without partnerships and collaboration? These are the themes of the virtual conference.

There will be many opportunities to learn and share alongside other archivists from the MARAC region and beyond. One of the great aspects of a virtual conference is the ease and low cost of attending. Join from anywhere and pay a much smaller amount compared to an in-person conference. The conference includes everything one would expect: plenary, member sessions, tours, and posters.

Take a look at the [conference homepage](#) for detailed program information. We hope to see you “there” November 13–15, 2024!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Hillary Kativa & Megan Craynon

VIRTUAL ARRANGEMENTS CO-CHAIRS:

Scott Keefer & Colleen Rademaker





Nominate Yourself or a Colleague for MARAC Elections

By Tiffany Cole, Kathy Evans, Jessica Lacher-Feldman, Tara Maharjan, Lori Hostuttler

AS THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR GETS UNDER WAY, IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S SLATE OF OFFICERS. Serving in a MARAC office or position can provide opportunities to learn how MARAC operates, network with others in the archival profession, and develop new skills. From new professionals to more experienced ones, MARAC offers us—the members—the chance to lead and participate in a variety of ways. The following offices are up for election this cycle:

-
- Chair-elect
 - Secretary
 - Meetings Coordinator
 - Awards Committee Chair
 - Member-at-Large (4 positions)
 - Arline Custer Award Committee (2 members)
 - Distinguished Service Award Committee (1 member)
 - Finding Aids Award Committee (2 members)
 - Nominations and Elections Committee (3 members)
 - Scholarship Committee (2 members)
-

For more information about these positions (or other ways to get involved), visit the [Get Involved with MARAC](#) page to view the organizational chart and descriptions for each position. Consider nominating yourself (or a colleague) for these positions! The [nomination form](#) is open until December 1. The election will take place in January; those elected start their service on July 1, 2025.

Questions? Contact Tiffany Cole, NEC Chair, at coletw@jmu.edu.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOOD AT CONFERENCES: PART ONE

MARY K. MANNIX, MEETINGS COORDINATOR

SINCE MY TIME ATTENDING, AND THEN PLANNING, MARAC MEETINGS, I HAVE LEARNED THAT FOOD IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE.

Long after members have forgotten what sessions they attended, they recall the snacks, or lack thereof, and what the options were at lunch. Food is also a paramount part of the budget for a conference.

There are two primary financial considerations in hotel contracts. The first is the price of the sleeping rooms and the number of them that must be sold. This is called “the room block.” If the room block, or a significant percentage of it, is not sold, there is a penalty. The penalty is usually a charge for meeting space (the rooms where sessions and plenaries take place). If the room block is met, there is often no cost for this space or, in more expensive hotels, a “nominal” fee of a couple hundred dollars, making that room block very important.

The other important contract consideration is the amount of money that MARAC must spend on food and beverage (the F&B minimum). This minimum does not include taxes, service fees, and other related charges. The F&B minimum does not include the food costs for the reception unless this event is held in the conference hotel.

It is rare to hold a MARAC reception in the hotel unless there is truly no site nearby (such as the Silver Spring meeting in Fall 2008), or the minimum is so high that the money must be spent in the hotel. In that case, there is no room in the budget to both pay a high food cost at a hotel and then also pay a caterer for a reception (for example, the Philadelphia 2013 conference). The food and beverage minimum varies greatly by location of hotel.



For instance, the F&B minimum in Annapolis almost ten years ago was \$25,000; in Wilmington in 2018 it was \$17,500; and last year in Saratoga Springs it was \$12,000. For the upcoming Harrisburg meeting (Spring 2025), the food and beverage minimum will be \$12,600.

If we don't spend the food and beverage minimum, we are charged it regardless. We always spend the minimum and usually spend more. It is shocking sometimes how little hotel food can be ordered for \$20,000. Most contracts “freeze” food prices at the time of signing. In other words, if a contract is signed in 2022 and the conference is held two years later, one of the “signing perks” of the contract is that we are given the 2022 menu prices. The Harrisburg contract is the first that I have signed (and I have signed 27 hotel contracts) that did not do this due to current fluctuating food prices. Of course, the hotel's menu and prices greatly impact what offerings we can serve our attendees and how we can meet everyone's dietary requirements. More about that in the next *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SINCE 2006, MARAC HAS GIVEN DESERVING MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA). The DSA Committee is now seeking nominations for our next deserving MARAC member!

The Distinguished Service Award is given to a MARAC member who has made significant contributions to the furtherance of MARAC and the archival profession.

Significant contributions to MARAC can include the following:

- Service as an officer, caucus representative, committee member, or chair
- Frequent session or workshop instruction

Significant contributions to the archival profession can include the following:

- Service as an officer, board member, or committee member of national or international archival organization(s)
- Book or journal publications in the field of archives
- Professor or workshop presenter
- Service on a State or Local Historical Society Advisory Board
- Application review for granting agencies

Note: Service to MARAC is more heavily weighted by the DSA Committee than service to the profession as a whole.

Nominations must include the following:

- DSA Nomination form, [available online](#).
- Nominee's current resume or curriculum vitae, or an acceptable alternative like a LinkedIn page or webpage
- A detailed letter from the nominator of the nominee's qualifications for the award
- A second letter of support for the nominee's qualifications
- The DSA Committee strongly recommends providing multiple letters of support for the nominee

Please submit nominations or questions to the DSA Committee chair, Jessica Webster, (jessicawagnerwebster@gmail.com) by January 31, 2025.

For additional information please see the [DSA website](#).



in memoriam



Adele Lerner with Brother Denis Sennett, S.A. at MARAC's 25th anniversary meeting in 1997. MARAC Archives, University of Maryland Libraries. archives.lib.umd.edu/repositories/2/resources/1054

◆ ADELE LERNER

News recently reached the archival community that Adele Lerner, one of the early founders of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, has passed away. She was 85.

An obit in the recent newsletter of the Society of American Archivists recounts Adele's multifaceted contributions to the archival profession—in archival work involving the health profession, in her involvement within SAA, and as a founding member of the Archivist Roundtable of New York.

Adele served in leadership positions within MARAC for three decades. In the mid-1970s, she represented the New York Caucus on the Steering Committee; in the 1980s, she served one term as an At-Large member of Steering, and then in the early 1990s, she returned to Steering, again as New York's Caucus representative.

Adele attended whenever MARAC held meetings in New York City, serving on local arrangements committees for the Fall 1981 and Spring 1994 meetings.

Colleagues fondly remember her for her enthusiastic energy and good cheer. She could be relied on to champion all things MARAC.

◆ JEAN GREEN

Jean Green passed away on May 16, 2024, after bravely enduring the diagnosis of Bulbar ALS. Jean was a career archivist working at the Arizona Historical Foundation, (1993–1995), Albany Institute of History and Art (1995–1997), and as the college archivist and assistant library director at the College of St. Rose (1997–2006). Jean's tenure at the College of St. Rose was a dynamic time, where among her many accomplishments, she developed an oral history program documenting the history of the college through the experiences of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She served as department head and special collections archivist at Binghamton University-SUNY (2006–2023).

In her time at Binghamton University, she worked closely with the Kurdish collection and with popular culture collections, including movie posters. She often talked of the idea of being a marine biologist, but joked about not being able to do the math, and her colleagues and friends in the archives world are glad that she took the path that she did.

A native of Whitney Point, New York, she earned her MLS from the University at Albany, SUNY and an MA in History from the State University of New York at Cortland. Jean was active in professional organizations including the Capital Area Archivists of New York, MARAC, and the Society of American Archivists. Over the years, she was a regular MARAC meeting attendee and served on a variety of committees including the 2008 Chautauqua Program Committee, Development Committee, and Finance Committee. Road trips and travel to conferences were joyous and full of laughter with Jean. She is survived by her husband and partner of 32 years Ken, her mother Lois Root, her pets, other family, and scores of friends far and wide.

Greetings
from

Harrisburg, PA

HARRISBURG:
Crossroads and
Bridges
in Archival Practice
MARAC Spring 2025
May 1-3

The Harrisburg Hilton
Harrisburg, PA

\$169/night,
parking is \$15/night

<https://www.marac.info/spring-2025-conference>

Image courtesy: Private collection of the Earhart family, Bristol, TN

An archivist's job is
big and broad.

“To appraise, acquire, arrange and describe, preserve, authenticate, and provide access to permanently valuable records.”

Source: Society of American Archivists

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August Wilson

ARCHIVE

CONNECTING AUGUST WILSON'S NOTES WITH HIS HOMETOWN

By Brenden Peifer, *August Wilson Outreach and Engagement Coordinator*

THE ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (A&SC) DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LIBRARY SYSTEM (ULS) HOUSES AN EXTENSIVE ARRAY OF MATERIALS THAT CHRONICLE SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE.

Among its most prestigious acquisitions is the August Wilson Archive, obtained in 2020 from the August Wilson Estate. This impressive collection, now housed in Pittsburgh (the legendary playwright's hometown), provides insights into Wilson's life and work, and serves as a vital resource for scholars, artists, and the broader community.

August Wilson, born Frederick August Kittel, Jr. on April 27, 1945, in Pittsburgh's Hill District, is renowned for his profound contributions to American theater. His seminal work, "The American Century Cycle," consists of ten plays that explore the African American experience across the 20th century. The August Wilson Archive, which arrived in over 450 boxes from Seattle, Wa., is comprised of documents and artifacts that chronicle the writer's interests and career from the 1960s to 2010s. Handwritten notes, annotated scripts, correspondence with theater companies, awards from his illustrious career, candid photographs, and more are all meticulously cataloged in an [online finding aid](#).

The archive has attracted a significant number of researchers and scholars eager to delve into these materials. However, the ULS also aims to extend its reach to those with little or no archival experience, thereby fostering a broader engagement with Wilson's legacy. A key technique used to garner more engagement is creating a website that is highly informative, accessible, and easily updated. In 2023, we were pleased that MARAC recognized the ULS's online efforts by awarding the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award to the [August Wilson Archive website](#).

Outreach and engagement efforts related to the August Wilson Archive are organized into two main categories: grant-funded initiatives and general-public engagement. The



August Wilson Archive Outreach and Engagement Coordinator and Administrative Support Tabling with AWA facsimiles at the August Wilson Block Party, April 27, 2024.

Heinz Endowments and the Henry L. Hillman Foundation have provided critical funding to support these endeavors, particularly in encouraging the local community to interact with the archive's materials.

The grant-funded outreach primarily targets educators, students, artists, and researchers. One notable program is the August Wilson Archive Educator Award, which compensates Pittsburgh teachers (grades 5-12) for developing lesson plans based on their research within the archive. These lesson plans adhere to the Pennsylvania State Academic Standards laid out by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. In the summer of 2024, four educators were granted the award for creating lesson plans on "Jitney," "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "Fences," and "Radio Golf," which are set to be taught in multiple Pittsburgh Public Schools.

A key objective of both the August Wilson Archive and Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey is to ensure that every student in Pittsburgh is aware of August Wilson and his contributions. The August Wilson Archive Student Award provides high school students with the opportunity to engage in primary source research and develop projects that express their findings. These projects can include plays, collages, paintings, videos, or curated exhibits, and are often displayed in venues like the August Wilson House in the Hill District or on the University of



Two Pittsburgh high school students researching the August Wilson Archive in the Reading Room of Hillman Library, July 8, 2024.

Pittsburgh's campus. This initiative allows students to gain early exposure to archival research and receive mentorship from professionals in their chosen fields.

Perhaps the most extensive grant-funded program is the Community-Artist Scholar Award, which invites artists from Western Pennsylvania to conduct research within the archive and create works inspired by Wilson's materials. This program has supported a diverse group of artists, including sculptors, painters, playwrights, soundscape artists, conceptual artists, and fashion designers, providing them with the resources to develop and promote their work locally. This initiative aims to play a role in fostering Pittsburgh's artistic community, by enabling artists to hone their craft in their city, rather than relocating elsewhere, as Wilson did when he moved to Minneapolis, Minn., before becoming a prominent voice in American theater.

The August Wilson Archive Research Award is another significant grant-funded initiative, designed to support national and international researchers who require financial assistance to visit the archive. The purpose of this award is to offer support for researchers hoping to utilize the August Wilson Archive as a primary source in their scholarly work. Institutions such as Columbia University and Northern Illinois University have already benefited from this program, sending researchers to Pittsburgh to engage with Wilson's work.

Beyond grant-funded activities, the August Wilson Archive connects with the broader Pittsburgh community through partnerships with local institutions, including the August Wilson House, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, and the Bill Nunn Theatre Project. These collaborations have not only promoted grant-funded opportunities, but have also raised awareness of the archive's presence at Hillman Library on the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland Campus.

One of the most prominent public events is the August Wilson Block Party, held annually on the last Saturday of April around Wilson's birthday. This event, hosted by the August Wilson House on Bedford Avenue, is located outside Wilson's childhood home and draws community members to celebrate the playwright and the neighborhood that shaped him. The block party features vendors (like the August Wilson Archive with facsimiles of materials), performers, food stands, and local businesses, creating an exciting atmosphere that honors Wilson's legacy. This type of programming has been a critical part of developing strong relationships with the surrounding local areas. Meeting the community where they are, going out, being visible, and speaking with community leaders and long-time residents has proven to be a successful way of attracting interest for this archival collection.

The August Wilson Archive also partners with the Bill Nunn Theater Project, which produces the "New Voices Monologue Contest," a regional monologue competition for high school students that has been featured in the Netflix documentary "Giving Voice." This competition, held in cities like Boston, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, and Pittsburgh, concludes in a national contest. In April 2024, the national finalists were brought to Pittsburgh, where they received a VIP tour of the archive. With their chaperones and acting coaches, these young performers had the opportunity to study early drafts of Wilson's plays, annotated in his handwriting, allowing them to dive deeper into the characters they would later portray on stage. Special tours like these often yield positive results beyond the initial visit. For example, teaching artists from Los Angeles and Chicago desire to have their classes virtually interact with August Wilson Archive materials in this upcoming school year.

The August Wilson Archive is a unique and invaluable collection within the University of Pittsburgh Library System's Archives & Special Collections. It sits alongside a collection of historical treasures, including 16th-century Bibles, ancient scrolls, rare books, and even notebooks from one of Wilson's own influences, Jorge Luis Borges. This collection is more than just a repository of documents; it is a living archive that connects the past with the present, offering inspiration and insight to a diverse audience.

From students to teachers, athletes to artists, politicians to playwrights, the August Wilson Archive speaks to all who seek to understand and explore the rich tapestry of African American history and culture that Wilson so masterfully depicted. His notes and writings have come full circle by finding a permanent home in the city that inspired much of his work.

BY DEB SCHIFF, ARCHIVIST AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN AT THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Although I haven't been a lone arranger for a while, there are many aspects of being a solo practitioner that remain a large part of how I work today. Some of them are traits developed during previous careers in technical publishing, corporate communications, and consulting. Others originated with generous archives and library mentors and effective training. The result is that I'm a bit of a Swiss army knife of a professional, which I'm guessing many of you are, too.

In thinking about what to write for this article, I was reminded of the toolbox analogy. Remember learning how to use a mini spatula to gently pry up the edges of a staple to remove it without harming the paper? It takes practice to do it correctly and quickly, especially on fragile and/or thin paper. Just like the spatula, all the other tools in my box have become familiar and easier to use after practice.

I could probably write a series about what's needed to be a Lone Arranger, but for now, I'd like to share just a couple of the handiest lone arranger tools that I continue to use in my work today.

AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

I've been very fortunate over time to have supervisors who supported my entrepreneurial spirit. Some of you might remember the Archivists to the Rescue project in New Jersey. The purpose of that effort was to bring low/no-cost, basic archival education to those who couldn't afford it, many of whom were lone arrangers and/or "accidental archivists" at public libraries, local historical societies, county parks, and religious organizations. Because my boss at Chester Library (the Library Director) believed in the project and my ability to do what I said I would do, I was able to run that big, ambitious project for the year. Essentially, being willing to take some risks

and try different ways of doing things is fundamental to my entrepreneurial spirit.

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

It's true. I am *that* person who will talk to anyone. Like many MARACers, I'm friendly. Being a lone arranger, in my experience, necessitates an outgoing personality. We need our professional networks for many reasons. When I first became an archivist, I leaned heavily on the SAA Lone Arrangers listserv. I'm still friends with people who helped me when I was fresh out of library school and requested a resume audit. Those same folks furnished examples of collecting policies, deeds of gift, and other documentation when I was building my department of one from scratch a year later. That kind of professional support is one of the reasons why I'm part of the MARAC Mentoring program—to help today's new archivists build their professional networks and pay forward all that good advice, as well as share my experience when it's useful.

Growing up with my father's consulting business in the house heavily influenced the way I interact in customer, patron, and donor relationships. The results from investing the time to build relationships, especially with donors, cannot be understated. Because I was interested in preserving a retiring professor's papers when she thought no one would want them, and because I expressed my commitment to ensure that future researchers would be able to experience her oral history interviews, she has been donating \$20,000 a year to the TCNJ Archives (to a total of \$100,000).

COLLABORATION

Like many jobs, being a lone arranger in an organization requires a great deal of collaboration. Whether I'm working directly with an IT department (if one even exists—in many small

organizations, it might be a volunteer who enjoys tinkering with technology) or marketing or leadership, the same rules apply. I need to be clear and concise when I communicate what's needed to achieve the goals of the archive, but at the same time, map those goals to the strategic plan of the overall organization. It is critical to value other people's time and acknowledge the work they're doing, especially if it's helping me in my work.

I could probably write an entire article on the value of collaboration, but the bottom line is that it is key to working on large-scale and/or distributed projects. The best example I can give of that aspect is co-chairing the first Virtual Arrangements Committee with the awesome John Zarrillo.

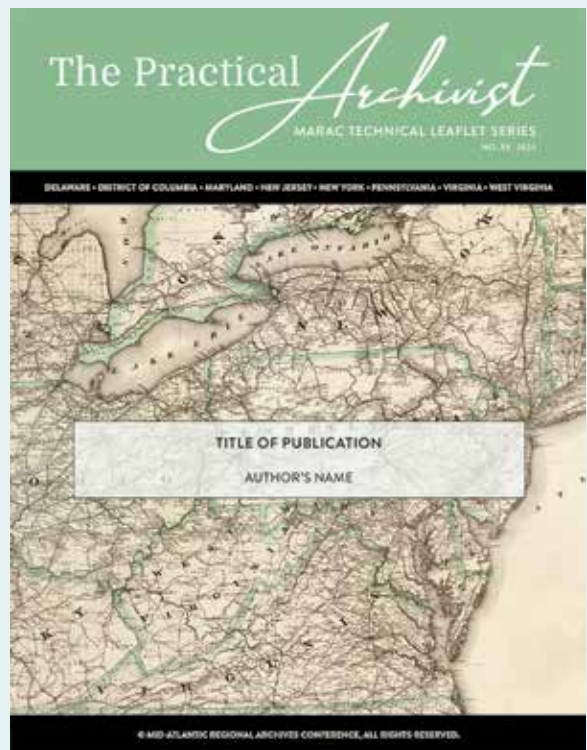
After the Long Branch meeting was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic, Mary Mannix asked if I would take on Local Arrangements for the first virtual meeting in Spring 2021. I told Mary that I would be happy to serve and reached out to John, whose volunteering work I admired when he was the New York Caucus Representative. He agreed to co-chair, and we began to gather best practices in a fledgling field.

I have a friend at the American Institute for Conservation, which held one of the early successful online conferences in 2020. She connected me with their conference committee members, who were generous with their advice, especially the high priorities (the practice sessions, for one).

When putting together the subcommittees, I called on MARACers with whom I'd worked on other committees, as well as mentees and friends. John did the same. Then, we opened it up to the general membership. As is the case with any MARAC meeting, the level of commitment from our volunteers is high, and for our first virtual meeting, it was no exception.

Because we were breaking new ground, we spent many hours in Zoom meetings writing documentation together. Overall, it was an outstanding experience, especially considering all the moving parts—how many people were involved; the amount of training we conducted for every presenter, host, and technical support person; and the documentation we produced.

Without the high degree of collaboration during those months leading up to the conference, we wouldn't have been able to deliver the framework for all those great presentations, vendor sessions, and the business meeting. I know that this last section veered away from the topic of being a lone arranger, but my take-home message is this: No matter how lone we might be, we have a huge support system in MARAC. I'm so very glad to be a member and to be of service to this professional society that has given me so much in the past 14 years.



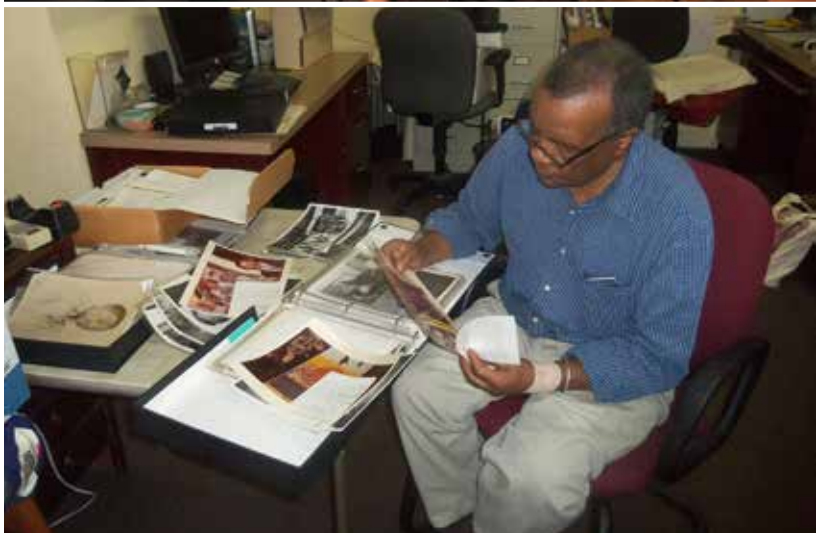
THE PRACTICAL ARCHIVIST: MARAC TECHNICAL LEAFLET SERIES IS SEEKING NEW SUBMISSIONS.

The *Practical Archivist* is a double-blind, peer-reviewed serial publication that provides practical guidance for specific archival tasks not commonly addressed in the professional literature.

Topics of particular interest for future publications include:

- Accessibility and/or DEI initiatives for archives
- Digital AV materials workflow
- Digital scholarship in the archives
- Handling of classified or proprietary materials
- Preservation, handling, and description of 19th-century photographs, email, etc.

For a full list of topics of interest or to submit proposals, please visit: marac.info/the-practical-archivist.



The Driskell Center Will Establish an Institutional Archive with Support from the Terra Foundation for American Art

BY DAVID CONWAY, ARCHIVIST, THE DRISKELL CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

IN 2026, THE DAVID C. DRISKELL CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK WILL CELEBRATE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY AS THE LEADING INSTITUTION DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORIC VISUAL ARTS.

That same year will mark fifty years since David C. Driskell's signature curatorial accomplishment, *Two Centuries of Black American Art*, redefined the American art canon. Driskell (1931–2020) understood the power of anniversaries as occasions to investigate the past while writing the future. His *Amistad II*

exhibition, which also sought to educate Americans about the contributions of Black American artists, was traveling during that Bicentennial year as well.

The Driskell Center maintains an art collection of over 2,000 unique objects and a research library with nearly 5,000 volumes and stewards archives of major Black artists, art historians, and arts institutions, notably David C. Driskell, Faith Ringgold, Tritobia Hayes Benjamin, Alonzo Davis, Michael D. Harris, Robin Holder, Dewey Crumpler, and the Harmon Foundation. On top of that important work, the Center's

programming, including dozens of exhibitions; numerous workshops and fellowships; artist residencies; artist talks and panel discussions; book awards; the list goes on, has kept our at times very small staff very busy for decades. And like many institutions, we have accumulated a massive backlog of institutional records. The creation of a proper institutional archive for the Driskell Center is overdue. In April of this year, the Center received a \$280,000 grant from the Terra Foundation for American Art in support of our proposal, “Writing the Future: Connecting and Supporting Black Archival Collections,” with funding for the establishment of an institutional archive.

It is the goal of the first year of the three-year grant to arrive at an arrangement proposal for the collection. Arrangement to the series, subseries, and folder levels will occur in the second and third years of the grant, as will cataloging and the creation of a finding aid. Before any of that can happen of course, we will need a basic inventory. Our team has been relocating physical records for possible inclusion in the institutional archive to the Center’s Archives for some time now. It is striking how similar this process is to what happens when we visit a potential donor’s home or studio to survey a collection. Invariably, collections are spread across different rooms or buildings, in this case, offices. And like most donations these days, the Driskell Center’s history straddles the analog and digital eras. We currently store close to a terabyte of digital records of the Center’s programming alone.

One of the factors that has necessitated this project is the Center’s lengthy exhibition history, which is itself becoming a subject of study. Some artists’ work has seldom been seen in exhibitions at major institutions and scholars and curators are beginning to find their way to the Center to study exhibition histories for those artists. Questions about exhibitions and their development are more or less standard but the Driskell Center’s unique history means that users will come from a greater variety of perspectives.

The users of this institutional archive will certainly include Center leadership and staff. Users from outside the Center will include traditional academic researchers but they might just as likely be curators or art collectors. David C. Driskell understood the connection between the art a society deems worthy of collecting and the art it values enough to warrant study and long-term preservation. He was a passionate, lifelong collector of African American art and encouraged others to follow suit. Prior to the pandemic, between 2016 and 2019, the Driskell Center operated “Collector’s School” workshops for individuals interested in collecting art, especially African American art, and caring for the works they owned. Alumni of those programs periodically contact the Center in the hopes of recovering some information that was imparted in those sessions. Development of an arrangement



Robert E. Steele (right), then Director of the David C. Driskell Center with future Director, Curlee R. Holton (left) at the University of Maryland Art Gallery for the opening exhibition of the David C. Driskell Center, 2004. Courtesy of The Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park.

proposal will involve thinking critically about the range of reference questions this collection will need to serve.

We look forward to sharing more with MARAC as this project unfolds and there will be plenty of opportunities. This grant from the Terra Foundation for American Art will also support a symposium in the second year and a print publication in the third highlighting the history of the Driskell Center and the creation of its institutional archive. The publication will coincide with a full academic year of programming around the Driskell Center’s 25th anniversary in 2026–2027.

ABOUT THE DRISKELL CENTER

The Driskell Center is a creative incubator dedicated to a world where Black artists exist at its center. We invite inquiry, experimentation, and dialogue to reexamine histories and shape shared futures. All programs at the Driskell Center are free and open to the public. For further information regarding exhibitions and activities at the Driskell Center, please visit driskellcenter.umd.edu.

ABOUT THE TERRA FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN ART

The Terra Foundation for American Art, established in 1978 and having offices in Chicago and Paris, supports organizations and individuals locally and globally with the aim of fostering intercultural dialogues and encouraging transformative practices that expand narratives of American art, through the foundation’s grant program, collection, and initiatives.

IMAGE CREDIT; OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT:

Congressman John Lewis with David C. Driskell at Collector’s School at the David C. Driskell Center, 2018. Courtesy of The Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park.

David C. Driskell at home in Hyattsville, Maryland, reviewing photographs to be donated to the David C. Driskell Center as part of the *David C. Driskell Papers*, 2014. Courtesy of The Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park.

David C. Driskell at the opening of *Evolution* in the David C. Driskell Center’s new home in Cole Student Activities Building, 2007. Courtesy of The Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park.

► DELAWARE

THIRD ANNUAL DELAWARE CAUCUS SUMMER PICNIC



Delaware caucus picnickers staying cool at the Hagley picnic pavilion along the banks of the beautiful Brandywine River.

Twenty-five Delaware archives workers, representing institutions across the state, gathered on June 20 for what has become an annual tradition: the Delaware Caucus Summer Picnic.

This year, the picnic returned to Hagley

Museum and Library's picnic pavilion, where caucus members and new friends enjoyed delicious sandwiches and beat the heat with (lots!) of lemonade. Many thanks to MARAC's Finance Committee for expanding the budget, which allowed the caucus to reach out to new folks around the region and show them what a collegial bunch MARACers can be! It was a welcome opportunity to connect and reconnect while building our local archives community.

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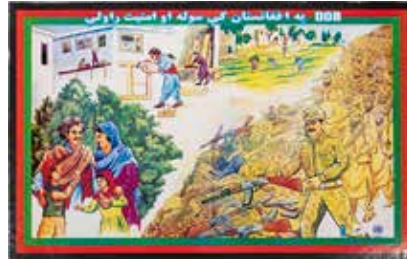
► DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ANNOUNCING THE COMPLETION OF THE GAPS ANALYSIS AT THE DC HISTORY CENTER

In fulfillment of the current strategic plan and alignment with [collecting commitments](#), the DC History Center has undertaken a gaps analysis to better understand the demographics of its collections. The gaps analysis was designed to systematically assess the depth and breadth of archival absences within the DC History Center's collections. When creating the structure of the gaps analysis, the Center was motivated by a central question: Whose stories is it already responsible for, and whose are missing? The conclusions of this study now inform future projects, processing decisions, and collecting priorities, as well as act as an acknowledgement

of where the Center has failed to preserve the histories of its community. A two-part [blog post detailing](#) the gaps analysis conclusions can be read on the DC History Center blog.

BOOTH FAMILY CENTER AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES THE ACQUISITION OF THE EDWARD GRAZDA COLLECTION ON AFGHANISTAN



Poster produced by the The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan promoting the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) program, circa 2002. Edward Grazda Collection on Afghanistan, Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Georgetown University Library.

The Booth Family Center for Special Collections at Georgetown University is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Edward Grazda Collection on Afghanistan. The collection consists of propaganda posters, handbills, and other

graphic materials that were produced in Afghanistan from the 1980s through the 2000s. Many of the items were produced during the Soviet-Afghan War and its aftermath, while other materials date from the period immediately following the United States invasion of Afghanistan. In addition to these items, the collection also includes a set of 48 photographic prints of images captured by photojournalist Edward Grazda in Afghanistan dating from the 1980s to the 2000s, as well as periodicals from the international Afghan émigré community. The collection is currently in the process of being digitized.

GRANT-FUNDED GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY ARCHIVING INITIATIVE AT THE DC HISTORY CENTER TO COLLECT LATINX HISTORIES IN DC

The DC History Center is thrilled to announce that it has received a 2024 HumanitiesDC Visions Grant. With this grant, the Center will introduce the Keys to the Past: Grassroots Community Archiving initiative this fall. The project will focus on community archiving within DC's Latino/a/x communities, offering digitization services and training to those who are interested in digitizing their personal collections. This process will address archival silences at the DC History Center, while preserving personal collections that can remain under the stewardship of community memory-keepers. The Center is excited for the impact this project will have on the city and looks forward to sharing this important history!

This project is supported by a grant from HumanitiesDC as part of the 'Humanities Grant Program,' an initiative funded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

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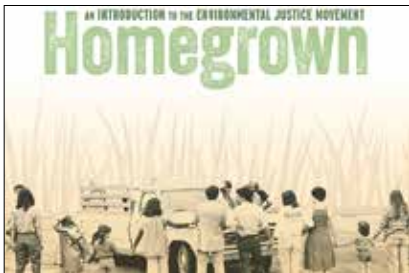
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► MARYLAND

HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPERS DIGITIZED

The Hagerstown Community College (HCC) partnered with Digital Maryland to make student newspapers (1946-1974) available digitally. The initial organization, preservation, and documentation was completed by the HCC archivist. The digitization services and access site were provided by Digital Maryland. This type of collaboration and level of access is a first in HCC Archives' short history. It is hoped that access to the student newspapers will provide a greater insight into the experiences of young adults during this time period. [Please visit the collection here.](#)

NEW EXHIBITION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Cropped poster image for UMD Special Collections and University Archives' *Homegrown* exhibition.

The University of Maryland College Park Special Collections and University Archives are pleased to announce a new online exhibition in the Hornbake Library Gallery that opened on September 9th! *Homegrown: An Introduction to the Environmental Justice Movement* seeks to highlight the rise of the environmental justice movement and stories of activism among communities of color facing environmental harm. The environmental justice movement defines the “environment” not as an unoccupied wilderness, but the places in which people live, work, play, and learn, and emerged as a response to environmental racism and injustice in the United States. The movement pushes for marginalized communities’ inclusion in conversations about environmental hazards and the creation of regulations to ensure safety before disaster happens. Attempting to draw from all collecting areas, this collaborative exhibition acknowledges that many materials still reflect the stories of dominant communities and silence the experiences and stories of environmental justice activists. The exhibition is free to the public and will be open Monday through Friday from

The University of Maryland College Park Special Collections and University Archives are pleased to announce a new online exhibition in the Hornbake Library Gallery that opened on September 9th! *Homegrown: An Introduction to the*

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Tours and instructional sessions involving the exhibition will also be available and inquiries can be directed to askhornbake@umd.edu.

For more information, [check out the corresponding virtual exhibition.](#)

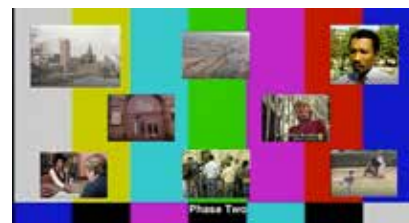
PRESENTATION ON MARYLAND'S DEAF HERITAGE

MARAC member Jerrod J. Grill, an independent scholar specializing in Deaf History and currently working at the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Md., gave a presentation, “Elements of Maryland’s Deaf Heritage” at the Maryland Association for the Deaf symposium on April 20, 2024. Drawing on archival sources, he highlighted Deaf leaders, educators, artists, and athletes, in addition to Deaf educational institutions and organizations, and historical events. He also highlighted sign languages, cultures, and literature in Maryland.

Jerrod noted that Maryland has local-level Deaf and national-level Deaf organizations which is unique for Maryland. He asserted that the national-level Deaf organizations are in Maryland because of political opportunities in the DC Metropolitan area. Many well-known deaf people are from or live in Maryland demonstrating that Maryland’s Deaf communities hold a rich heritage.

Jerrod also discussed the possibility of forming a collective-based Deaf History of Maryland, to address the concern that historians allow for bias in their work and how we could prevent this in the future. He emphasized the need for preservation and access to valuable Deaf historical information and materials. Jerrod plans to continue his research and share the findings about Deaf History in Maryland and the DC Metropolitan Area in future presentations and publications.

ROBERT L. BOGOMOLNY LIBRARY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE RECEIVED GRANT FOR RECORDINGS AT RISK FOR THE SECOND TIME



Thanks to a CLIR grant, the University of Baltimore will digitize WMAR-TV news recordings from 1984-1993.

In August 2024, the University of Baltimore Foundation, Inc. received a \$42,554.93 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) as part of their Recordings at Risk program. This funding will support the project “Preserving and Providing Access to Baltimore Television News Station (WMAR), 1984–1993 (Phase Two).” The grant program is made possible by funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Special Collections & Archives department at the University of Baltimore maintains a rich collection of WMAR-TV news recordings, which includes unique footage depicting significant historical events, cultural and racial issues, and political and social changes in the Baltimore region. WMAR-TV, the first television station in Maryland, began broadcasting news reports in 1947.

In this second phase, the University of Baltimore Archives will digitize 961 U-matic and VHS tapes from the WMAR-TV archive, covering the years 1984 to 1993. These digital versions will be accessible online through the Internet Archive, benefiting both local communities and researchers. This phase builds on the initial project's success, when 975 U-matic tapes from 1980 to 1985 were digitized, thanks to a previous CLIR grant.

UPDATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND (UMD) COLLEGE PARK SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

UMD's Special Collections and University Archives saw several wonderful accomplishments in the 2023-2024 academic year! Some highlights include:

The 1856 Project Builds Momentum: The 1856 Project is part of the [Universities Studying Slavery consortium](#), a multi-institutional collaboration focused on sharing best practices and guiding principles for embarking on truth-telling projects that address human bondage and racism in institutional histories. As an important part of the University of Maryland's strategic commitments, The 1856 Project provides a narrative of the university's history that embraces its past, stands firm in the challenges and achievements of its present, and lays the groundwork for a more equitable future.

Following the 2023 inaugural symposium, The 1856 Project continued with its commitment with the 1st Annual Research Update on February 7, 2024 ([read the booklet here](#)). This project was also awarded a \$200,000 Mellon Foundation grant to establish a two-year research incubator program for reparative histories and social justice that will continue to investigate the legacy of slavery at the university.

CLIR Grant Supports Digitization and the Fighting for Freedom Symposium: In 2021, UMD Special Collections and University Archives, in collaboration with Georgia State University received a \$350,000 Digitizing Hidden Special Collections grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources to fund a three-year long project to digitize records relating to the labor movement and Civil Rights movement. The resulting project, "[Advancing Workers' Rights in the American South](#)," provides access to regional records of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Civil Rights Southeast Division, located in Georgia, and national-level records from the AFL, CIO, and AFL-CIO

Civil Rights Department, located at UMD. It also includes the virtual exhibition, *Fighting for Freedom: Labor and Civil Rights in the American South*. The project culminated in the Fighting for Freedom Virtual Symposium on April 4, 2024. The day-long virtual symposium was free to the public and featured diverse scholarship on the complex relationship between organized labor and civil rights activism through the past century.

Living Democracy Initiative Supports Processing of Hogan

Papers: The UMD Libraries' Living Democracy Initiative serves everyone in the UMD community and all those who care about advancing democratic ideals. Made possible by a generous gift from the Ilona Modly Hogan Legacy Fund, this initiative aims to advance democratic values, civic education, and engagement in society through programming, including discussions, educational programs, and teaching and research opportunities. [The Living Democracy Symposium](#) occurred on October 10, 2024 in the Stamp Student Union at the University of Maryland College Park. This initiative will also aid in making one of UMD's Special Collections and University Archives' collections, The Lawrence J. Hogan, Sr. Papers, more accessible with a fully processed collection, an enhanced [finding aid](#), and the creation of an online exhibition through digitization. Including consequential Watergate-era documentation, the collection is of particular interest to scholars, students, and members of the public who want to understand the relationship between American democracy and the individual actors within our society, both past and present, who have played a part in defending and promoting our system of government. Additionally, the gift will fund a graduate assistantship and travel scholarships for researchers interested in using the Hogan papers and other Maryland political collections. The culminating symposium in October will mark 50 years since the Watergate Impeachment Vote and will explore lessons from this cataclysmic event for the 21st century. Learn more about the acquisition and processing of the Hogan papers [here](#).

• CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE

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► NEW JERSEY

ENHANCING ACCESS TO THE BENNY CARTER AUDIO RECORDINGS AT THE INSTITUTE OF JAZZ STUDIES, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Institute of Jazz Studies is working to enhance access to Benny Carter audio recordings that were digitized with the support of a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Benny Carter (1907-2003) was a renowned American jazz saxophonist, trumpeter, and composer. The Benny Carter [digital collection](#) includes Carter's personal archive and contains many

unique performances and interviews. The collection contains approximately 742 hours of playing time, with recordings ranging from the 1930s to the 1990s. The recordings include many unissued live performances and studio recordings, as well as soundtracks of Carter's film and television work. Currently, approximately seventy recordings have been added to the digital collection, with more to be incorporated as they are processed. Researchers interested in accessing the digitized recordings should [register](#) via the Institute's research portal.

INVITATION TO ARCHIVES AND HISTORY DAY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

All are welcome to this year's Archives and History Day, being held at Brookdale Community College's Collins Arena in Lincroft, N.J., on Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This free event, hosted by the Monmouth County Archives, Division of the Monmouth County Clerk, will include exhibitor tables staffed by local historical organizations, museums, and archives. The event will also include a keynote speech, awards presentations, and an exhibit titled *Monmouth County Life Through a Lens: Photographs from the Evans Studio, 1943-1987* will also be on view.

KARL J. NIEDERER AWARDED MAXINE LURIE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Maxine N. Lurie Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes outstanding achievements in any area of the study and presentation of New Jersey history to a broad audience, as well as significant service to the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance (NJSAA). This year's Maxine N. Lurie Distinguished Service Award is awarded to Karl J. Niederer.

Karl J. Niederer dedicated his entire 40-year professional career to preserving and promoting public understanding of New Jersey's cultural heritage, serving with the State Archives in the Division of Archives and Records Management for 34 years, and as director and State Archivist from 1994 to 2012. From 2013 until his retirement in 2018, Karl served simultaneously with the State Historic Preservation Office, and as administrator of the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response. Karl also served in several national, regional, and state historical and professional organizations during and after his career, often in leadership roles. Among them: the Council of State Archivists; the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference; the Society of American Archivists; the New Jersey State Historical Records Advisory Board; the Advocates for New Jersey History; the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response; and the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance (NJSAA). In MARAC's New Jersey Caucus, Karl, Richard Waldron, and Maxine Lurie co-founded CAPES (the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service) in 1989. Funded by the New Jersey Historical Commission, CAPES has provided well over 500 New Jersey organizations with archival needs assessments and improvement plans over the past 35 years. With NJSAA, Karl served as membership secretary, standardizing the

format of its membership roll and tracking dues and donations. He designed NJSAA's logo in 2015. For all the above reasons and more, Karl is eminently qualified as the recipient of the 2024 Maxine Lurie Distinguished Service Award.

MORRISTOWN & MORRIS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY UPDATES

The History Center has been working with Picatinny Arsenal to host digitized versions of the New Jersey base's newspapers, *The Picatinny News* and *The Barrage*. Published for the benefit of active duty military and civilian personnel, the bi-weekly newspapers reported on various aspects of work life at Picatinny. They are a good source of information for genealogists with family members who once worked at the facility, as well as those studying American military history. The initial selection of these newspapers that date from 1947 to 1958 are now available [online](#) and we will include additional years once they are digitized.

A number of recently processed manuscript collections are now open to researchers, including the Andrew Bell Cobb Family Papers and the Howell Family Papers. The Cobb Papers concern the business and social affairs of a well-known Morris County family. Andrew B. Cobb (1804-1873) was an iron manufacturer, farmer, politician, and judge who maintained the family's substantial farm in Parsippany. The papers date from 1791-1961 and include personal correspondence and photographs from his family, as well as the diary of Lemuel Cobb (1762-1831) which details his purchase and operation of the Split Rock iron mine and forge, and Lemuel's role as a slaveholder.

The Howell Family Papers, 1770-1948, document several members of the prominent Morris County family and their lives in Littleton Village (near modern-day Routes 10 and 202). Among the records are journals and correspondence that refer to life on the family farm, the Morristown Baptist Church, studying to become a teacher at the State Normal School in Trenton, discussions around slavery, and visits to the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum. Finding aids to both collections are available on their [website](#), and the papers are open to researchers in the History Center's reading room.

TIMOTHY S. CORLIS RECEIVES THE 2024 ROGER MCDONOUGH LIBRARIANSHIP AWARD

Timothy S. Corlis, retired from Special Collections and University Archives at Rutgers University, is the winner of the 2024 Roger McDonough Librarianship Award. The McDonough Award is the most prestigious award given to a New Jersey librarian or archivist for excellence in service to the New Jersey history research community and the general public. It is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, the New Jersey Library Association History & Preservation Section, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference New Jersey Caucus, and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

After obtaining his B.A. in 1981, Tim served in several staff positions at Alexander Library, Rutgers University. He then worked with the New Jersey Newspaper Microfilming Project. Beginning in 1990, Tim joined the ETS Archives at the Carl Campbell Brigham Library. In 1998, Tim became Vice President of the Princeton Preservation Group and continues in that position today. He rejoined Rutgers University in 2000 as Labor Archivist for the records of the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers (IUE). In 2001, Tim completed the Preservation Management Institute at Rutgers, and in 2003, he became head of Preservation, Special Collections and University Archives as well as a lecturer at the Rutgers graduate library school. Throughout the years, he mentored numerous conservation technicians. Tim has been active in professional organizations in the library, archives, and conservation fields, including AIC, NJLA, and MARAC, serving on four different committees. His expertise in, and devotion to, library work is a model for others to follow and made him highly qualified for the Roger McDonough Award, which will be presented at Archives and History Day on October 26 at Brookdale Community College.

UPDATES FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE ARCHIVES



Tara Maharjan (left) and Danielle Marchetti (right)

The State Archives continues to expand its public research hours. The microfilm room, which is currently open Monday-Thursday, will now be open on Fridays. The manuscript room continues to be open

Mondays through Thursdays. Appointments are encouraged to get the most out of your research experience and can be made via the website.

The Electronic Record Unit at the New Jersey State Archives was awarded the Council of State Archivists' (CoSA) Advocacy for Archives Award. This award acknowledges an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to efforts by state, territorial, and local government archives to ensure the preservation and availability of the American historical record. From CoSA: "The Electronic Records Unit consistently demonstrates innovation and leadership in managing the challenges found within state government. Tara Maharjan's and Danielle Marchetti's commitment to preserving and providing access to electronic records in the digital age sets a standard for archival institutions across the nation. The team's proactive advocacy efforts have been instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of electronic records preservation and fostering collaboration among archival professionals, government agencies, and other stakeholders. Their dedication to promoting best practices and standards in electronic records management exemplifies the spirit of the Advocacy for

Archives Award." The Electronic Record Unit will be speaking about their work during the Virtual MARAC Conference in November.

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► NEW YORK

BRIAN KEOUGH APPOINTED AS STATE ARCHIVIST AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES

The New York State Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education Betty A. Rosa appointed Brian Keough as the State Archivist and Assistant Commissioner for the New York State Archives. Located in the Cultural Education Center, Mr. Keough will lead the New York State Archives' operations in the stewardship of a comprehensive collection of records and conduct related programs and services to state agencies, local governments, non-government historical records repositories, community organizations, and individuals. With nearly three decades of professional experience, Mr. Keough has excelled as a national leader within the archival field. Mr. Keough's expertise extends to working with state agencies, local governments, politicians, public policy associations, writers, and donors to acquire new collections. His responsibilities have also included managing more than \$4 million in private endowments, fundraising with prominent alumni and faculty, and pursuing public and private grant opportunities. Mr. Keough holds a Master of Arts degree in History and a Master of Information Science degree from the University at Albany in addition to his Bachelors in Arts in History from West Chester University.

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► PENNSYLVANIA

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LIBRARY SYSTEM (ULS) RECEIVED \$1 MILLION GIFT TO NAME THE ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS GALLERY



The Archives & Special Collections Gallery at Hillman Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Although the official name has yet to be made public, the ULS has received a transformative \$1 million gift to name the Archives & Special Collections (A&SC)

Gallery on the third floor of the newly renovated Hillman Library. This gift will allow A&SC to enhance its distinctive collections through the acquisition and preservation of material of national and international importance and will greatly facilitate outreach efforts in support of Pitt's strategic mission of community engagement and global relevance.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

Isaac Alexander

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► VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRA GRESSITT, THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY DIRECTOR, RETIRES



Gressitt receiving commendation at Friends of Thomas Balch Library Luncheon, July 2024. Photograph. Thomas Balch Library.

Following more than twenty years as Library Director for Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, Virginia, Alexandra Gressitt retired on June 21, 2024. "It has been an honor to have served as Library Director of Thomas Balch Library," Gressitt said in her final week. "I am filled with gratitude for

the many years of shared experiences and achievements. The hallmark of our success has been unending community support." Her successor, Laura Christiansen, began her new role on June 24, 2024. Christiansen previously served as the Library's Curator of Manuscripts and Archives for the past 10 years.

GEORGE C. MARSHALL FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT TO DIGITIZE THE MARSHALL PHOTO COLLECTION



Boxes of the Marshall photo collection being loaded at the Marshall Foundation Library for off-site scanning, 2024. Photograph. George C. Marshall Foundation.

The Marshall photo collection at the George C. Marshall Foundation Library in Lexington, Virginia, contains more than 8,000 items, but only one-third of the collection is available for viewing in the library catalog. Thanks in part to a grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, 5,000 photos were packed up by library

intern Clare O'Brien this spring and are currently being digitized at BackStage Library Works in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They return home this fall and will soon be available for viewing in the catalog.

This project is just one component of the Foundation's larger efforts to digitize the George C. Marshall papers, which cover Marshall's 50-year military and government career. As the digitization project progresses over the next few years, the 200,000 documents will be made freely accessible on an item level in the [Foundation's library catalog](#).



Mace & Crown, 1980-03-24. Newspaper. Old Dominion University Libraries, MaceCrown_19800324.

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY DIGITIZES MACE & CROWN STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Through a donation from alumnae Margo E. Horner '70, Special Collections and University Archives at Old Dominion University (ODU) digitized back issues of the Mace & Crown student newspaper from 1961 through Spring 2023 last summer. The approximately 1,500 issues of the newspaper document the history of ODU from the student's perspective, and

cover topics such as special events, student organizations, entertainment, and athletics, among others. The digitized newspapers became available for researchers in May 2024 on the [ODU Libraries Digital Collections website](#).

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES CELEBRATING "THE YEAR OF ZELDA FICHANDLER"

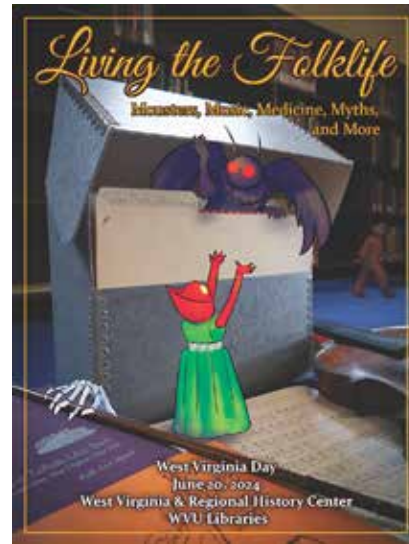
On September 19, 2024, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at George Mason University (GMU) hosted a speaker's event focused on the life and work of Zelda Fichandler. Known for her leadership and innovation as a director and educator in theater during the mid-20th century, Zelda was one of the founders and first artistic director of Washington DC's Arena Stage and her work helped redefine and significantly expand the reputation of regional theatre across the country. At the September event, authors Mary Robinson and Todd London, who utilized SCRC's Zelda Fichandler papers and Arena Stage affiliated collections in their research, discussed their newly published books about Zelda Fichandler's life and work, and her contributions to Arena Stage and beyond.

The Zelda Fichandler papers are currently being processed, with access for research anticipated to be restored sometime in 2025. Until then, a selection of materials from both the Zelda

▶ WEST VIRGINIA

WVRHC OPENS NEW FOLKLORE EXHIBITION

The West Virginia & Regional History Center (WVRHC) celebrated West Virginia Day, June 20, 2024, with a program on West Virginia folklore and an exhibit opening. Attendees enjoyed birthday cake and folk music by local musician and WVU Professor Chris Haddox. Speaker Rosemary Hathaway shared her experiences studying and documenting folklore and traditional practices in West Virginia. Her presentation also explored approaches to fieldwork and teaching and challenged commonly held assumptions about folklore in Appalachia. Hathaway is Professor Emerita of English at WVU. During her 17 years at the University, she taught courses in American Literature, young-adult literature, folklore, and Appalachian Studies. She is the author of *Mountaineers Are Always Free: Heritage, Dissent, and a West Virginia Icon*, a cultural history of the West Virginia Mountaineer published by the WVU Press in 2020.



Commemorative Poster for *Living the Folklife: Monsters, Music, Medicine, Myths and More* exhibition, West Virginia & Regional History Center, 2024. Image courtesy of the WVRHC.

The new exhibition, *Living the Folklife: Monsters, Music, Medicine, Myths and More*, highlights West Virginia folklore with documents and artifacts from the WVRHC's collections, including the papers of some of West Virginia's most prolific folklorists. Their archives and other WVRHC collections contain stories, songs, recipes, remedies, and an abundance of evidence of rich

folklife in the state and region. *Living the Folklife* also examines the stories behind Mothman, the Flatwoods Monster, and other cryptids that have recently become a popular part of West Virginia folklore and a driver of tourism in the state. The exhibition is open to the public and will be on display through May 2025 in the WVRHC's Davis Family Galleries.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**
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Fichandler papers and the Arena Stage records are included in SCRC's current exhibit, "The Change We Want to See": Artists and Social Transformation," done in collaboration with and co-curated by GMU subject librarians Megan Reichelt (Theater, Dance, and Women & Gender Studies Librarian), Cindy Badilla-Meléndez (Music, Film Studies, and Video Collections Librarian), and Stephanie Grimm (Art and Art History Librarian). The exhibit, on display throughout the Fall semester, highlights the varying ways artists have responded to—or even directly participated in—moments of social and historic change.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY RECEIVES CLIR GRANT TO DIGITIZE FILMS OF RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT SURVEILLANCE RECORDS

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Libraries, Special Collections and Archives has received a \$24,585.00 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to support the preservation of the Films of Richmond Police Department (RPD) Surveillance Records (1961-1973). The award was part of CLIR's "Recordings at Risk" program, which is made possible by funding from the Mellon Foundation. The VCU Libraries' project was one of 26 selected for funding out of 74 applicants nationally.



Martin Luther King Memorial March, Sept. 4, 1969. Photograph. Richmond Police Surveillance Collection, Virginia Commonwealth University.

VCU Libraries will preserve and provide access to 156 films and 13 audio reels from the Richmond, Virginia Police Department (RPD) Surveillance Records (1961 -1973). The films include footage of: Black Panther Party meetings and activities

in the 1960s; anti-draft, anti-war, and anti-busing protests; student protests at local universities; marches including the Poor People's Campaign, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and the trial of H. Rap Brown.

These films will provide new opportunities to investigate aspects of the Civil Rights Movement for scholars from a wide variety of disciplines and locations. The grant will also deepen partnerships with The Valentine Museum, whose holdings include a collection of similar surveillance activities by the RPD during the same period.

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MARAC'S COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE: ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO SHARE

MISSY NERINO, COMMITTEE CHAIR 2024-2025

2024-2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Chair: Missy Nerino
- *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*: Carolyn Friedrich, Editor; Lara Szypszak, Associate Editor; Jill Tominosky, Advertising Editor; Anna Juliar, Caucus News Editor
- *Practical Archivist*: Heidi Abbey Moyer and Renae Rapp, Co-Editors-in-Chief; Molly Tighe, Michael Martin, Nicole Font, Diane Bockrath, and Megan Craynon, Editorial Board Members
- Social Media Coordinator: Kathleen Donahoe

Since 2016, MARAC's Communications Committee has been the go-to team for sharing news and updates both within and outside of MARAC, primarily through three main channels: the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* (MAA), *The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series* (TPA), and social media platforms.

The *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*, MARAC's quarterly publication, currently is working towards creating more guidelines for publishing. In the past few years the need to create an "In Memoriam" section unfortunately needed to be addressed, and MAA's Editors recently crafted a policy on that subject.

This column is also a new initiative, which is fulfilling an objective in MARAC's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan to help create more sustainable organizational infrastructures. Each committee will be tasked with sharing an update on recent initiatives and posting in MAA annually. In the coming months, the MAA Editors will solidify this schedule and work with committee chairs to produce a column similar to this one for each of MARAC's standing and operational committees.

After a several year hiatus, *The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series* is making a comeback! This double-blind, peer-reviewed publication has been redesigned, with a new cover that features a historic map of the mid-Atlantic region. The header uses fonts and styles similar to the redesigned MAA, providing a consistent branding across MARAC's two publications. In the next year, two leaflets are slated to be published, one on inclusive and reparative description and another on textiles. Currently the leaflet series has a provisional ISSN, and once the next leaflet is published, a permanent ISSN should be in place.



Communications Chair Missy Nerino and MAA Associate Editor Lara Szypszak look at past issues of MAA at MARAC's 50th Anniversary Conference at UMD in 2022. Courtesy of Missy Nerino.

On the social media front, MARAC currently engages through Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), our blog, and YouTube. However, due to recent changes on X, the committee decided to pause active posting there. Instead, MARAC will establish an [official LinkedIn page](#). This new page will allow members to showcase their volunteer work and will help us manage interactions more effectively.

MARAC is a dynamic organization with a lot more going on beyond just conferences. The Communications Committee is here to ensure you're up to date with everything from election reminders to social media updates. From updates on future conferences to Member Minutes in the blog, the Communications Committee publishes all the news that's fit to share!



INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE CAUCUS NEWS OR WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC ARCHIVIST?

See the updated [MAA Style Guide](#) for how to submit and format your content, grammar tips, and a particular enthusiasm for the Chicago Manual of Style. The MAA's style guide makes it easier than ever to have your content fit the bill right off the bat.

HAVE AN IDEA? LET US KNOW!

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Treasurer's Report

FISCAL YEAR 2024 • 4TH QUARTER • APRIL 1-JUNE 30, 2024

<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>
INCOME							
Membership Dues	\$40,000.00	\$18,287.00	\$1,569.00	\$1,052.00	\$11,886.00	\$32,794.00	82%
Conference Registration	\$68,000.00	\$33,012.00	\$9,080.00	\$8,608.00	\$1,460.00	\$52,160.00	77%
Conference Vendors	\$13,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,400.00	\$1,055.00	\$0.00	\$12,955.00	100%
Conference Sponsorship	\$5,000.00	\$4,300.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$4,800.00	96%
Publication Advertising	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$988.00	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$1,348.00	67%
Publication Sales	\$400.00	\$45.00	\$90.00	\$135.00	\$90.00	\$360.00	90%
Mailing List Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Off-Meeting Workshops	\$3,500.00	\$1,315.00	\$0.00	\$3,700.00	\$5,695.00	\$10,710.00	306%
Bank Interest	\$300.00	\$113.77	\$322.08	\$323.91	\$492.20	\$1,251.96	417%
Investment Interest	\$2,000.00	\$184.55	\$2,990.70	\$497.31	\$769.15	\$4,441.71	222%
Gifts to Operations	\$800.00	\$285.00	\$1,540.00	\$250.00	\$245.00	\$2,320.00	290%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$620.00	\$835.00	0%
Total Income	\$135,000.00	\$65,057.32	\$20,979.78	\$16,071.22	\$21,867.35	\$123,975.67	92%
EXPENSES							
Administrator	\$22,000.00	\$2,999.89	\$4,073.16	\$4,488.25	\$3,829.28	\$15,390.58	70%
Web Services	\$8,775.00	\$7,954.37	\$194.40	\$194.40	\$339.08	\$8,682.25	99%
Archivist	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	100%
Accountant	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,225.00	\$3,225.00	215%
Advocacy	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	100%
Insurance Policy	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.50	\$1,350.50	135%
Phone	\$600.00	\$149.27	\$149.62	\$149.67	\$150.55	\$599.11	100%
Postage	\$400.00	\$60.42	\$8.55	\$46.92	\$23.87	\$139.76	35%
Office Supplies	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33.16	\$0.00	\$33.16	27%
Food	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$2,162.55	\$0.00	\$1,120.42	\$3,282.97	91%
Travel	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$478.74	\$0.00	\$281.82	\$760.56	56%
Equipment	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,821.19	\$1,821.19	228%
Printing and Design	\$2,500.00	\$752.77	\$260.71	\$426.30	\$458.62	\$1,898.40	76%
Conference	\$78,000.00	\$4,663.48	\$51,879.67	\$175.00	\$12,288.73	\$69,006.88	88%
Lodging	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$417.00	\$0.00	\$509.88	\$926.88	93%
Honoraria	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$900.00	\$1,800.00	113%
Awards and Prizes	\$1,450.00	\$62.75	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$885.00	\$1,447.75	100%
Scholarships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Banking Fees	\$7,200.00	\$2,183.07	\$1,945.79	\$516.58	\$814.32	\$5,459.76	76%
Investments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$45.00	\$72.00	\$425.00	\$3,457.34	\$3,999.34	1333%
Total Expenses	\$135,000.00	\$19,671.02	\$63,942.19	\$7,555.28	\$31,455.60	\$122,624.09	91%
Net Income or (Loss)		\$45,386.30	(\$42,962.41)	\$8,515.94	(\$9,588.25)	\$1,351.58	

<u>Account Balances</u>		<u>Opening</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Closing</u>	
PNC Checking	\$75,172.65	Operating	\$10,939.83	\$21,867.35	(\$31,455.60)	\$1,351.58
PNC Savings	\$78,042.99	Restricted	\$137,315.13	\$2,164.00	(\$4,220.00)	\$135,259.13
Vanguard Bonds	\$89,626.60	Reserve	\$47,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,250.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$242,842.24</u>	Surplus	\$58,981.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,981.53
		Totals	\$254,486.49	\$24,031.35	(\$35,675.60)	\$242,842.24

Summary - Fourth Quarter FY 2024

Opening Balance	\$254,486.49
Total Income	\$24,031.35
Total Expenses	(\$35,675.60)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>\$242,842.24</u>

<u>Restricted Funds</u>		<u>Opening</u>	<u>New Gifts</u>	<u>Spending</u>	<u>Closing</u>	
PNC Savings	\$45,632.53	Disaster Assist.	\$20,335.00	\$98.00	\$0.00	\$20,433.00
Vanguard Bonds	\$89,626.60	Education	\$103,363.51	\$1,918.00	(\$4,220.00)	\$101,061.51
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$135,259.13</u>	Graduate Schol	\$8,775.62	\$148.00	\$0.00	\$8,923.62
		Finch Award	\$4,841.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,841.00
		<u>Total</u>	<u>\$137,315.13</u>	<u>\$2,164.00</u>	<u>(\$4,220.00)</u>	<u>\$135,259.13</u>

New Members

June 2024

Theresa Condon Philadelphia City Archives
Alexis Heywood Hagerstown Community College
Dawnelle Ion Hampden-Sydney College
Katelyn Kearns Simmons University
Grace Lu. Cumberland County Archives
Sylvia Marshall Virginia War Memorial
Nicholas Means. Franklin County Pennsylvania Archives

July 2024

Caroline Berry. University of Pittsburgh
Khalila Chaar-Perez People's Media Record
Alisha Davis Recent Graduate
Dean DeBolt University of West Florida Archives and
West Florida History Center
Macy Eaton University of Maryland
Nicholas Gentry University of Maryland
Leah Greer. Delaware Public Archives
Kelly Kinsley. Delaware Public Archives
Nancy Martin Peters Township Public Library
Maria Myer Delaware Public Archives

Alexis Rich. Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art
Anne Schwelm Warner Library
Daniel Stimpfle. CUNY Queens College
Chloe Walker. Colgate University
Megan Wetherington. Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
Katherine Zinn. Virginia Tech University Libraries,
Special Collections and University Archives

August 2024

John Bence University of Pennsylvania
Jason Benner. University of Maryland
Jim Coe Newark Academy
Kay Hahn Oncology Nursing Society
Shauna-Kay Harrison Alfred University
Kate McGovern Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
Kaitlyn Morrill National Park Service
Jasper Nash University of Maryland
Alexandra O'Neill Pennsylvania Western University
Lindy Smith Syracuse University
Emma Streb. York County History Center
Ann Marie Watson Drexel University

Image Credits

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Staff of Sylvia's, a legendary soul-food restaurant in Harlem, New York. Highsmith, Carol M., between 1980 and 2006. Transparency. Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, <https://locn.loc.gov/2011632427>

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O'Halloran, Thomas J, photographer. *People standing in line to vote at the fire house in Adelphi, Prince George County, Maryland, during the presidential election / TOH.* [11/08/60 8 November] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/2023631591.

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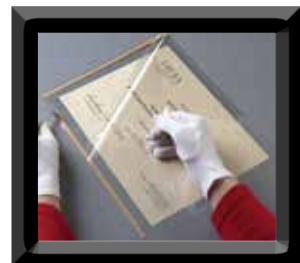
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