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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

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:

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

Phone: (717) 713-9973

Email: maa@marac.info

Online: www.marac.info/membership

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

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On the Cover

Cass Symphony, Earl Palmer, undated.

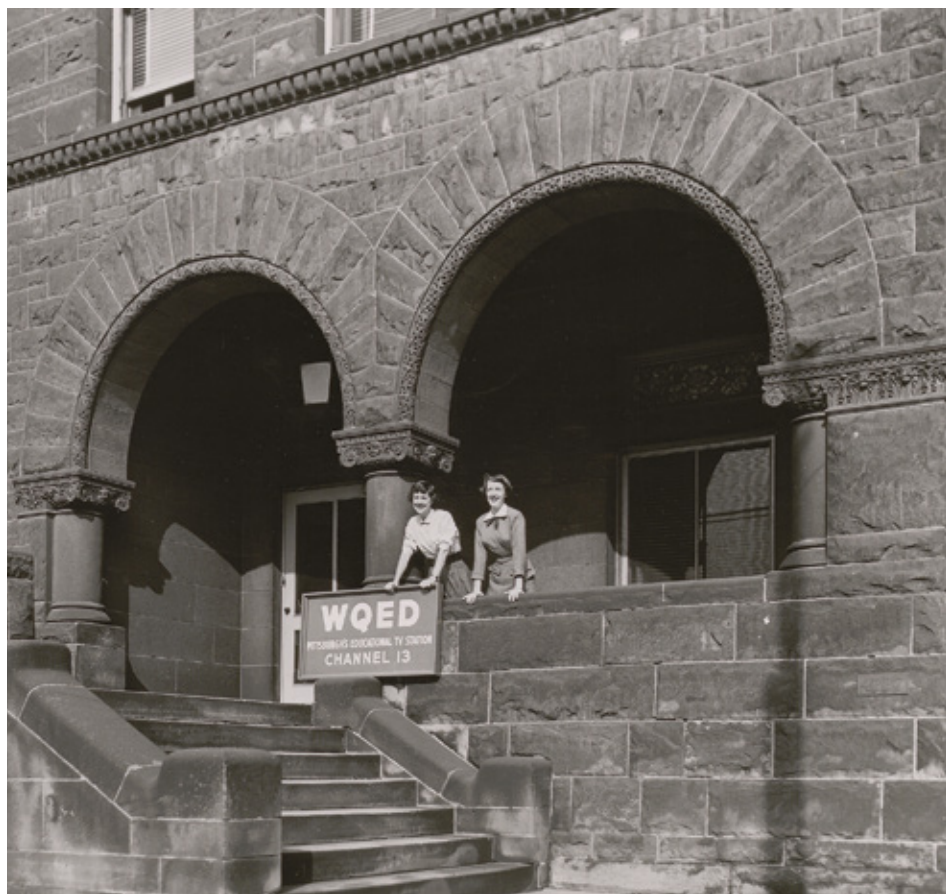
Photograph. West Virginia & Regional History Center, West Virginia University, 000505,
<https://wvhistoryonview.org/catalog/000505>

To the Right

First home of WQED Channel 13. Circa 1953-1954.

Photograph. University Archives. Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System.

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From the Chair

ALI ZAWOYSKI

Hi Folks,

Welcome to the Summer 2024 issue of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*! I'm honored to be writing to you as Chair, and I'll do my best to make this column a place for interesting updates, exciting opportunities, and heartfelt gratitude during our time together.

First, I'd like to give a big shout-out to everyone who planned, presented, and participated in MARAC's first-ever Symposium on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Philadelphia this April. The workshops and lightning talks were insightful and well-received by attendees, and the training from Right To Be was dynamic and engaging. Thank you to outgoing Diversity & Inclusion Chair Rayna Andrews and the D&I Committee, Meetings Coordinator Mary Mannix and the Meetings Coordinating Committee, MARAC Administrator Sara Predmore, and everyone who helped make this event a success!

If you weren't able to make it to Philadelphia this spring, don't worry—we've got plenty of virtual and in-person events coming up this year, including the [Fall Virtual Meeting](#) from November 13-15. Titled "Renaissance & Renewal" in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance, the program seeks to showcase creativity, advocacy, versatility, and innovation in archival work. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details this September!

MARAC couldn't put on any programming without our volunteers, which leads me to my next shout-out: thank you to everyone who graciously answered our calls for assistance this past year. One of the most interesting duties of the Chair-Elect is to complete the volunteer roster for MARAC, which entails matching people with their preferred activities and ensuring that all our committees have the support they need to create this newsletter, host workshops and webinars, mentor new colleagues, and more! Looking for a way to learn new skills, meet more archivists, and make the profession a better place? We'll be glad to have your help!

Now that we have our committee members and elected officials in place, what's in the works for MARAC this year?

We'll continue to roll out our new [strategic plan](#), focusing on providing quality educational offerings; increasing diversity, inclusivity and accessibility in the organization; making our finances and organizational structures more agile; and supporting advocacy and outreach throughout our region. Plans are also in motion for a [new award](#) in honor of influential New Jersey archivist and founding MARAC member Ron Becker, spearheaded by outgoing NJ Caucus Representative

Tara Maharjan and Awards Committee Chair Kira Dietz. This award will specifically support professional development for our newest colleagues: those who have been in the archival field for five years or less and need additional funding to grow their professional skills. As a result of Tara and Kira's efforts, and the generous donors who have already pledged their support, MARAC will be able to enrich the future of our profession in a new and much-needed way.

Another exciting development for the year ahead is a new partnership between the Caucus Representatives and the Education Committee, who will be co-sponsoring a quarterly series of virtual events. Examples might include roundtable discussions, book talks, lectures, coffee chats, or whatever format best fits the topic or speaker. By working together, Caucus Representatives and Education Committee members will be able to share programming responsibilities, avoid overlapping content, and not compete for attendees. Watch your email for the first installment of the series this fall!

Before I close this column, I want to shed a little more light on the role of Chair-Elect/Chair and express my gratitude to the many people who have helped me learn about how MARAC operates, and how I can support its work. Since last summer, I have benefitted enormously from guidance and insight from the following people: former Chairs Sara Borden and Jessica Webster, MARAC Administrator Sara Predmore, Treasurer Amy Fitch, Parliamentarian Arian Ravanbakhsh, and Meetings Coordinator Mary Mannix. As Chair-Elect, one of my favorite tasks was to convene the Caucus Representatives' quarterly meetings, and I always enjoyed hearing their perspectives and ideas. I truly believe that the Caucuses are one of MARAC's greatest strengths and I look forward to seeing the results of their work with Chair-Elect Zach Hottel this year.

Thanks for reading and I'll see you all soon!

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Zawoyski". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Ali Zawoyski
Chair, 2024-2025

a thank you-

A THANK YOU FROM JESSICA L. WEBSTER, OUTGOING CHAIR

My time as MARAC Chair is wrapping up! As outgoing chair, I wanted to write a brief thank you column to everyone I have worked with over the past two years.

I've been so lucky to work with exceptional colleagues, particularly the current Executive Committee of MARAC—that includes Chair-Elect/Incoming Chair Ali Zawoyski, Secretary Kevin Clair, Treasurer Amy Fitch, Meetings Coordinator Mary Mannix, and our wonderful Administrator Sara Predmore. I don't know how I would've come through the last year without all of your help. I was very grateful to serve as incoming Chair-Elect during the strategic planning process, and I wanted to acknowledge the hard work of last year's Chair Sara Borden. She did an incredible job speaking to committee chairs and members about their needs and priorities for the next strategic plan. She organized regular meetings of a subcommittee to draft the plan. All this work helped me understand key needs of the membership, as well as to learn how to think about strategic planning, which I had never done before. In fact, participating in the strategic planning process with MARAC has helped me feel confident conducting a similar process at my institution.

I'd also like to thank our Steering Committee. The committee this year has been amazing, full of active, engaged, and passionate members. I appreciate the service of all the outgoing members, and look forward to the tenure of the newly elected and appointed members whose terms are just beginning. Your hard work helps make MARAC what it is and what we hope it can be.

Finally, I would just like to share that it has been a great joy and honor to serve my term as Chair. I'm grateful to have been elected, and I look back with great fondness at my tenure with this organization that has meant so much to my professional career. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you, and I will see you at future meetings of MARAC!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica L. Webster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica L. Webster
Chair, 2023-2024

a Conversation

WITH THE NEW CHAIR, ALI ZAWOYSKI



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. Ali Zawoyski, MARAC's 2024-2025 Chair, joins in this tradition, sharing a little bit of herself with MARAC members.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

My first job was as a library page, and we had to report how long it took us to shelve carts and unload the book drop in all weathers, uphill both ways. My first archival job was as a student at Dickinson College, with excellent guidance from Jim Gerencser, Malinda Triller-Doran, and Debbie Ege. The photo above is from 2007 and commemorates the first collection I ever processed!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK, MOVIE, TV SHOW, ETC.?

My two biggest cultural obsessions are probably Star Wars and the Eurovision Song Contest, closely followed by The X-Files (although we don't talk about anything that happened after season 6).

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Getting outside, seeing friends, and learning Slavic languages on Duolingo.

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

Julia Child. She lived a fascinating life, and the food would be amazing!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MARAC MEMORY?

One of my favorite MARAC memories was being able to hang out with so many of my former colleagues in Saratoga Springs last fall. The great thing about an organization like this is that

you can take it with you—people leave and jobs change, but MARAC is forever!

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

Once upon a time, I was sorting through an administrator's office files and found that they had saved not only the (many) news clippings celebrating their arrival, but also the rejection letters they received from other jobs they had applied to once the shine wore off.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEWCOMERS TO MARAC?

My advice for newcomers to MARAC will echo that of previous Chairs—don't be afraid to volunteer! My favorite choice is the Local Arrangements Committee conference registration table because it's a low-effort, high-impact way to meet your colleagues and make them feel welcome at the same time. We are always looking for volunteers for MARAC events and committees, so watch your email and this newsletter for upcoming opportunities to get involved!

CALL FOR AWARD SUBMISSIONS

► C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award

The MARAC Finding Aid Awards Committee welcomes submissions for the 2024 C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award. This award recognizes online publications, including virtual exhibitions, web sites, web pages, and other digital tools that promote the use of archival materials.

To be eligible for the award, an online publication must have a stable internet address and must have been published between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. The award is only open to repositories in the MARAC region and all submissions must be received by **JULY 31, 2024**.

Submission guidelines and additional information may be found online at [C. Herbert Finch Award](#).

Please send your submission packet and direct any questions to Committee Senior Co-Chair, David Grinnell at grinnell@pitt.edu.

► 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, 2023 and June 30, 2024. **ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 31, 2024.**

Electronic submissions in PDF format of the entire work are encouraged. Submissions and a letter of nomination should be sent to Committee Chair Elise DeAndrea (deandree@upstate.edu). More information about the award can be [found online](#).



Greetings
from

Harrisburg, PA

**MARAC Returns to
Harrisburg, PA!**

Join MARAC at
The Harrisburg Hilton

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

**MARAC
Spring 2025
May 1-3, 2025**

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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Sharmila Bhatia

2024 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

By Jessica Webster, Kira Dietz, and Sara Borden

WE ARE HONORED TO PRESENT THE 2024 MARAC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA) TO SHARMILA BHATIA.

The DSA recognizes members who have made significant contributions to MARAC. Honorees have also contributed to the success of the organization, as well as to the broader archival profession. The DSA has been awarded 23 times since 1992. Each recipient receives a \$250 honorarium provided by Hollinger Metal Edge. This year, MARAC hosted its first-ever one-day Symposium on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion on April 8, 2024. Due to the unique format of the Symposium, Sharmila received her award virtually, at the Business Meeting held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

This year's committee consisted of Sara Borden, Brigette Kamsler, Rejoice Scherry, and ex-officio member and MARAC Historian, Lauren Brown. Sharmila exemplifies all of the characteristics of a DSA honoree and the committee expressed its deep gratitude for her service. Nominators highlighted her long-standing and passionate commitment to the archives profession. Additionally, letter-writers admired her longevity in MARAC and constant willingness to take on roles of responsibility, mentor other members, and step up when no one else would.

Sharmila has extensive leadership skills and experience with service in national and regional professional and community organizations; experience in researching and writing about emerging technology, electronic formats, archives, and records management; experience in writing and reviewing policies and procedures pertaining to workplace matters, archives, and records management; extensive experience and knowledge of system development, defining requirements, functional and user testing; has been a leader for teams, managing workloads, assigning and reviewing work of team members, and providing

training; and worked extensively with electronic records in a variety of formats and of multi-stages in the life cycle: transfer, processing, accessioning, preservation, and description. Sharmila is a dedicated presenter at conferences and author of many publications.

In the past 20 years, Sharmila has served on one local arrangements committee and five program committees, chairing three of the latter. She served on the Publications Committee for 10 years and chaired the committee for three years. She also served on the Finance and Development Committees, including several years as the Development Coordinator.

"...recognition of Sharmila's contributions to MARAC is long overdue."

— Susan McElrath

Furthermore, Sharmila has presented or written four meeting presentations, four book reviews, and three *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* articles. She has had a long career at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), having served there since 2001, as an Archives Specialist and now as Program Analyst. Through numerous articles and various presentations at MARAC, NAGARA, and SAA conferences, Sharmila has spread archival knowledge about privacy and security of electronic records, artificial intelligence, and records management. She has received many awards for her work within NARA, including the Archivist of the United States Achievement Award. Additionally, Sharmila is a member of the National Archives

“Sharmila Bhatia has strengthened MARAC and the archival community by becoming a master of archival work and the sharing of her knowledge to others; through her work within MARAC and other archival organizations; and finally in her concern about the welfare of her colleagues.”

— Jim Cassedy

Assembly and the International Standards Organization working group on BlockChain.

Sharmila currently serves with the Public Interest Declassification Board, and previously served as an Electronic Records Format Specialist, and as a Specialist in the Electronic Records Division of NARA. She is a long-time member of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and currently serves as Treasurer for both SAA and the SAA Foundation. Sharmila has been an active and much-valued member of the Berwyn Heights Historical Committee since 2005 and has served in various executive positions since 2006.

There were several mentions of Sharmila's service to SAA, as well as her commitment to local history in Berwyn Heights, MD, in multiple nomination letters. Becky Collier called Sharmila “a calming voice of reason.” Susan McElrath pointed out her level-headedness and stated that, “recognition of Sharmila's contributions to MARAC is long overdue.” Similarly, Jennie Levine Knies expressed that, “I have known Sharmila for two decades through our work together in MARAC, and there are few who can demonstrate such a well-rounded and complete dedication to MARAC and the archival profession.” Jim Cassedy wrote, “Sharmila Bhatia has strengthened MARAC and the archival community by becoming a master of archival work and the sharing of her knowledge to others; through her work within MARAC and other archival organizations; and finally in her concern about the welfare of her colleagues.” In short, her lengthy career as an archivist, and in MARAC, as well as her service to the profession as a whole, is admirable and enviable.

CONGRATULATIONS, SHARMILA!

THANKS FROM SHARMILA BHATIA:

It's such an honor to receive MARAC's Distinguished Service Award and I'm grateful to those who supported and nominated me. I'm thrilled to have been selected—it was such a surprise. I consider myself one of those behind-the-scenes people. While I've led several committees, I see my role as facilitating the work for the organization and giving members valuable and enriching experiences with MARAC. I've had many opportunities and have served in a variety of roles (some more successfully than others!). I've learned about leadership, working in committees, conference programming, and so many other things. I joined MARAC over 20 years ago, and from the beginning I felt welcomed and many members encouraged me over the years to serve. I enjoy volunteering for MARAC and it's mainly because of the people. I've made so many friends, and that has been the best part of being involved. Volunteering is really key to getting the most out of being part of an organization and MARAC has so many opportunities. Most importantly, it's a lot of fun!

— Sharmila Bhatia

REFLECTING ON THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

AN INVITATION TO THE FALL 2024 VIRTUAL MARAC CONFERENCE

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: HILLARY KATIVA & MEGAN CRAYNON

VIRTUAL ARRANGEMENTS CO-CHAIRS: SCOTT KEEFER & COLLEEN RADEMAKER

Summer is a time for soaking up the sun, watching youth relish the taste of freedom ushered in by the academic break, and (hopefully) heading toward our own refreshing vacations. We invite you to channel some of that vibrancy, energy, and beauty of the summer season as we plan for a return to a virtual Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference this fall! Our standard fare of plenary, member sessions, tours, and posters will all make an appearance in the virtual world, **NOVEMBER 13-15, 2024.**

The theme of this conference is **RENAISSANCE & RENEWAL**, and we anticipate a full conference highlighting creativity, advocacy, versatility, and innovation in archival work. Our inspiration stems from the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance, which holds rich cultural and historic significance for the world of the humanities. The Harlem Renaissance embodied a true revitalization of arts, but also a strengthening of diversity as African-American artists rose in prominence and influence. Not only that, but the Harlem Renaissance is a reflection of our region, as it found its symbolic capital in the community of Harlem, New York City.

We need look no further than our own personal and professional lives to find living examples of individual and collective renaissance. In big and small ways, it is likely that we have each walked through a reimagining and recreating of ourselves and our work. Is your institution in a major shift from physical to digital recordkeeping or record retention? Are you finally fed up with a problem that you need to tackle to make the work more efficient? Are you in the middle of your career and looking for a change? Or just starting out for the first time in the field? Renaissance and renewals, all! Are you working to build and strengthen a diversity of voices within our profession, your community, and beyond? Build on the shoulders of the Harlem Renaissance!



Zora Hurston, half-length portrait, standing, facing slightly left, beating the hountar, or mama drum., 1937. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/93513271/>.



As always, our MARAC colleagues hold riches of wisdom to share and we are excited to learn alongside one another. We will collectively explore what is possible when we bring new ideas, new insights, and courage to our work.

Remember, our virtual conferences are more affordable than in-person ones (a steal of a deal, really!) and a simple way to fit in professional development and networking while supporting colleagues and an organization we all love. Encourage your friends, your interns, and any student you know to register and join us for what is sure to be an inspiring conference! The dynamics of being virtual mean we can welcome archivists from outside of the MARAC region, spreading the wealth of knowledge and experience in the MARAC area beyond our borders.

Keep an eye on the conference homepage for more detailed information as the fall approaches. We hope to see you “there” November 13–15, 2024!

For more information: marac.memberclicks.net/fall-2024-conference



Parks, Gordon, photographer. *Portrait of Langston Hughes*, 1943. Photograph. www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2017858893.

Parks, Gordon, photographer. *New York, New York. Harlem apartment house*. United States New York New York State, 1943. May-June. Photograph. www.loc.gov/item/2017851520/.

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▶ DELAWARE

HAGLEY HISTORIAN TO HOST THOMAS JEFFERSON EVENT WITH POPLAR FOREST

Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington is pleased to partner with Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's personal retreat home built near Lynchburg, Virginia, between 1806 and 1826, to host "Landscapes, Ideas, and Intellectual Adventures: The World of Jefferson and du Pont," on July 30 at 6 p.m. at Hagley. This public event will explore Thomas Jefferson's long association with the du Pont family. Hagley Historian Lucas R. Clawson will lead a discussion with Travis McDonald, formerly the architectural historian at Poplar Forest, and Bill Barker, who has portrayed and interpreted Thomas Jefferson since the 1990s (most notably for Colonial Williamsburg). They will talk about topics such as the friendship between the du Pont family and Jefferson, their homes and how they used them, the restoration and maintenance of historic landscapes, and the intellectual worlds in which Jefferson and the du Ponts lived. Audience members are encouraged to join in the discussion as well. Details and registration can be found on [Hagley's website](#).

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**
Diane E. Bockrath
(302) 658-2400 ext. 328
dbockrath@hagley.org

▶ DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

"COLLECTING DC HISTORY" DEBUTS AT HEURICH HOUSE

About 20 DC area archives set up table exhibits at the museum's garden at the Heurich House (also known as the "Brewmaster's Castle") near Dupont Circle, on the chilly afternoon of April 21, for the debut of "Collecting DC History." This was the first such event, in which various archives set up exhibits and discussed their collections: what they collect, what they accept in their collections, and why it is important to collect historical objects and to donate significant historical objects to repositories that are interested in them. All of the participants and guests were very pleased with the event, and DC area archives plan to make this an annual event.

MYRTILLA MINER PRESENTATION

On May 7th, National Teacher's Day, Kimberly Bender, the Executive Director of Heurich House Museum, and Chris Anglim, the University Archivist for the University of the



Kimberly Bender and Chris Anglim at Oak Hill Cemetery

District of Columbia, presented "Myrtilla Miner: Her Life and Legacy," at the chapel at historic Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC, the final resting place of Miss Miner. The pioneering Miss Miner founded a school for African American girls who wanted to become teachers. After

successive transformations over the years, Miner's School evolved into today's University of the District of Columbia. This presentation was part of public programming and outreach sponsored by Oak Hill Cemetery.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**
Christopher Anglim
(202) 274-5843
canglim@udc.edu

▶ MARYLAND

HOOD COLLEGE AWARDED GRANT TO DIGITIZE MICROFILM COLLECTIONS

In January 2024, the Hood College Archives and Special Collections was awarded a mini-grant of \$4,000 by the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWhA). The HCWhA mini-grants are non-capital in nature and awarded annually, with awards ranging from \$500-\$5,000 ([Mini Grants Through Heart of the Civil War](#)) for historical projects that further HCWhA priorities within the heritage area border. The project is also financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.



Frederick Female Seminary catalog, 1842

The award for Hood will pay for the digitization of microfilm of student publications from the early through late 20th century and circulars and catalogs from the Frederick Female Seminary (FFS) from 1840-1892. These collections were targeted because they were already available on microfilm, an easier

medium for digitization (some parts of these collections are extremely fragile), and because the collections are heavily used. Having the student newspapers and yearbooks digitized will assist internal and external researchers, and the early literary magazines and FFS materials are particularly helpful for local researchers and genealogists. The digitization is complete, and the objects are currently being loaded onto our open access institutional repository ([Hood College](#)).



Portion of an 1873 policy for the Woodlands, a property in Montgomery County, Maryland, taken out by Mary Augusta Hutton. The insurance policy included a drawing of the buildings on her property.

MONTGOMERY HISTORY DIGITIZES THOUSANDS OF INSURANCE DOCUMENTS

Through a grant from the Maryland Center for History and Culture's Miller Fund, Montgomery History was able to digitize over 3,300 of the oldest documents from the Montgomery Mutual Fire Insurance Company in 2023. This project was spearheaded by Archivist and Librarian Sarah Hedlund, who had proposed this collection for potential digitization during a field study at the Jane C. Sween Research Library and Special Collections (Montgomery History's research facility) in 2017.

The insurance policy documents, representing over 1,000 property owners between 1848 and 1900, contain detailed descriptions

and locations of dwelling houses, barns, churches, schools, outbuildings, and tenant houses, many of which were built and used during the era of slavery and beyond. The majority of the policies represent property in Montgomery County, Maryland, but the Sandy Spring-based company also insured property in Frederick, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Howard, Baltimore, Carroll, Washington, and Talbott Counties as well as Washington, DC. The scanning, uploading, and metadata entry took about five months, and the work was done by a Digital Project Archivist. These digitized records became available to researchers using our [DSpace platform](#) in March, 2024, and are now searchable by policyholder and property location.

• CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE

Allison Fischbach
afischbach@jhmi.edu

▶ NEW JERSEY

ALLIANCE HERITAGE CENTER AT STOCKTON UNIVERSITY RECEIVES 2024 INNOVATIVE ARCHIVES AWARD

The 2024 MARAC N.J. Caucus Innovative Archives Award has been presented to the [Alliance Heritage Center of Stockton University \(AHC\)](#). The AHC has created an extensive digital history museum, making available content about the Alliance Colony of Pittsgrove Township. The Alliance Colony was an agricultural community formed by Jewish refugees fleeing oppression and violence in the Russian Empire. Established in 1882 by 43 original families, Alliance is considered the first successful Jewish farming village in the United States. The Center's archives encompass several physical and digital collections which include manuscripts, naturalization papers, newspapers, deeds, maps, land surveys, synagogue records, historical photographs, written reports on Jewish farming communities, census information, and oral history interviews. The Center has supplemented these activities with a series of "lunch-and-learns" focusing on the Alliance Colony history and best practices for working with historical materials.

This award recognizes archival organizations that have developed innovative educational or outreach models utilizing archival sources, provided leadership during a time of emergency or crisis, demonstrated new thinking in finding a solution to an issue or problem, and exhibited creativity in increasing awareness of local history resources among New Jersey residents and visitors, or otherwise provided exemplary service to the archives and history communities. The committee, consisting of Caryn Radick, Laura M. Poll, and Donald Cornelius, as well as the current Caucus chair, Tara Maharjan, in an ex-officio capacity, felt that the work of the Alliance Heritage Center makes it a deserving winner of the Innovative Archives Award. The committee congratulates Tom Kinsella, Elizabeth and Samuel Levin Director of the Alliance Heritage Center at Stockton, and Patricia Chappine, Rudnick Fellow at the Alliance Heritage Center at Stockton University, for this award.

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY'S NEW JERSEY CONNECTION

Jones Memorial Library (JML) in Lynchburg, Virginia is transcribing a collection with relevance for New Jersey researchers.

JML Manuscript Collection 1141: The Potter Estate Papers includes wills, bills of sale, inventories, and other documents related to several nineteenth century rice farming plantations along the Savannah River owned by John Potter and his sons, James and Thomas. The Library is transcribing the papers to create a dataset of the enslaved persons named in these documents. The dataset will be submitted for publication with [Enslaved.org](#). John Potter consolidated vast tracts along the

Savannah River into the Colerain and Tweedside plantations. Potter eventually retired in Princeton, New Jersey in 1824, where he donated funds to build Trinity Church.

The Potter papers came into the Library's collection via Potter's grandson-in-law, John Duval Langhorne. The papers include documents from Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and Virginia and name more than 1,000 enslaved persons living in the Savannah area. For more information about the project, contact Deborah Smith (director@jmlibrary.org).

ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVE RECORDS LATINO AND LGBT HERITAGE

The History & Genealogy Center of the Morristown & Morris Township Library has embarked on an oral history project to chronicle the lives of Morris County's Latino and LGBT residents. The History Center began collecting oral histories in 1982 when it partnered with longtime resident Helen Conover to record interviews with prominent African American residents. In 1999, Assistant Archivist Cher Turkington began interviewing residents from the town's Irish American community, and both sets of interviews are now available online.

The new initiative started last year when History Center staff began collecting oral histories from business owners, politicians, clergy and other long standing members of Morris County's Latino community. A recent donation of records from the Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County led to several of the group's early members agreeing to record interviews; the organization was founded by college-age residents after the Stonewall Riots. Both projects are ongoing and the transcribed recordings will eventually be made available through ContentDM.

UPDATE FROM THE NEW JERSEY ROOM, JERSEY CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Jersey City Free Public Library is very excited to announce that it is part of a grant awarded to the Community Webs program of the Internet Archive by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Along with Athens-Clarke County Library, Belen Public Library, District of Columbia Public Library, Evanston History Center, San Francisco Public Library, and William B. Harlan Memorial Library, materials from the library collection will be scanned by and uploaded to the Internet Archive, with the goal of making documentation of diverse communities more accessible and searchable.

Our contributions will include:

- 318 bound volumes of Municipal Records, 1853-1970
- Printed minutes and financial reports of city government and select agencies for development and education including:
 - City Government (under three types of structure), 1853–1970

- Public Works – Streets and Water Supply, 1861–1913
- Finance Board, 1871–1907
- Comptroller, 1865–1908 (with gaps)
- Board of Education, 1873–1970

This material represents parts of the Jersey City Free Public Library collection that have been previously inaccessible and unusable. The library is very excited to partner with other libraries across the country in this project. The library appreciates the work of the Internet Archive and its Community Webs program to enhance the mission of library special collections in the online era.

NEW JERSEY CAUCUS PROPOSES NEW MARAC AWARD

The MARAC New Jersey Caucus would like to start a new award in honor of Ron Becker, a founding member of MARAC. The goal of the award is to encourage professional development for new professionals (5 years or fewer in the archival field) within the MARAC region. This award would be different in that it specifically targets new professionals who may require additional skills to enhance their resume but may be working for institutions that do not provide funding to do so. This annual award of \$1,500 would cover professional development, including:

- Conference expenses – membership, registration, flights, lodging, meals, gas mileage, etc. for any professional organization, not just MARAC.
- Editorial services/fees for article, journal, or book submissions.
- Continuing education course(s) or certification(s) either online or in person for any educational opportunity that the candidate relates to their professional goals, not just those explicitly related to archives and its related fields. Examples are project management, computer science, database management, privacy, and data security.
- Workshop fees and travel.

To learn more about the award and how you can help create this award, please check out the [MARAC Blog](#).



THANK YOU!

I just wanted to thank you for allowing me to be your caucus representative for the last four years. While the pandemic didn't allow us to get together and visit repositories around the state as I had hoped, it was still a pleasure to meet so

many of you virtually, attend your online programs, and help promote the great work you are all doing. The caucus is in good hands with our new representative, Diane Biunno. She is a joy to work with, and I hope you are all as welcoming to her as you were to me.

It has been an honor to be a champion of your work!

— Tara

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

Tara Maharjan

(908) 458-7734

tkmaharjan@gmail.com

▶ NEW YORK

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES ONLINE ACCESS TO ARTIST OBITUARY SCRAPBOOKS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives is pleased to announce the digitization of two volumes of artist obituaries from our archives, spanning the years between 1906 to 1929. The volumes were aggregated by Arthur D'Hervilly, who started his Met career as a guard in 1894 and worked his way up through the ranks to assistant curator of paintings.

The Met has long collected articles about its exhibitions and programs, milestone art acquisitions, gallery expansions, and activities of its trustees, benefactors, and staff; D'Hervilly's collection of artist obituaries add an unexpected facet to the Museum's substantial press clipping archive. He continued to acquire these materials and grow the collection until his own death in 1919. After his passing, other Museum staff followed his lead for another decade, amassing hundreds more obituaries. Some of the artists included in these volumes are well-known, but they include mostly obscure painters, sculptors, commercial illustrators, and photographers.

The obituaries were pasted into two large scrapbook volumes that grew to contain more than 300 densely packed pages, which were photographed by Museum Archives staff. Digital access to these materials allows online readers to page through these fragile books that are otherwise a challenge to handle.

Information on the project can be found [here](#), and the digitized volumes are available through Watson Library Digital Collections [here](#).

Researchers are required to use digitized material for their initial access to the collection. For information about access to the physical materials at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, please email archives@metmuseum.org.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

Danielle Glynn

(585) 519-3641

whit8188@gmail.com

▶ PENNSYLVANIA

EXHIBITIONS AT PENN STATE, HARRISBURG



The Madlyn L. Hanes Library is pleased to announce, "The Botanical Prints of Henry Evans," the inaugural exhibition for the new "Art Wall" in the library for Summer 2024. The Madlyn L. Hanes Library and the Penn State Harrisburg School of Humanities have partnered to create this space for visual works of art owned by the college and for art created by students. Located near the

Reference Collection on the first floor of the library, the "Art Wall" summer installation includes nine botanical, linotype prints by noted California printmaker, [Henry Evans](#) (1918–1990). This exhibition is on display until August 9.

In celebration of Women's History Month in March 2024, a new exhibition is now available for viewing on the first floor of the Hanes Library. This exhibition represents a multi-year partnership between the [Antique Automobile Club of America \(AACA\) Chris & Kathleen Koch's Library & Research Center](#) and [Archives and Special Collections in the Madlyn L. Hanes Library at Penn State Harrisburg](#). Featuring over 100 items in five display cases, it showcases women and their many contributions to automotive history. It includes a combination of original materials and facsimiles from the 1880s through the 2020s such as advertisements, automotive brochures, automobilia, books, magazine covers, photographs, road maps, and even a rare woman's vintage driving coat and dress from the early 1900s. This exhibition is on display until December 20.



Thursday, March 28, 2024, marked the 45th anniversary of the nation's worst nuclear accident, which happened at the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear power plant, located on an island in the Susquehanna River near Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. An exhibition, located in the Archives and Special Collections' Reading Room on the library's third floor, features books,

rare ephemera, and other unique memorabilia about TMI including recent acquisitions from area residents and local donors. This exhibition is on display until December 20.

Please note that viewing of the exhibitions is by appointment only (Monday - Wednesday). Visitors are encouraged to schedule a visit at least two weeks in advance. Please contact Heidi Abbey Moyer (hna2@psu.edu), Archivist and Humanities Reference Librarian, for more information or visit the [Archives and Special Collections](#) website.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHIVES SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR COAL RECORDS



Structural drawings from the Glen Alden Collection prior to processing. Courtesy of Missy Nerino.

The Industrial Archives & Library (IAL) of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Earth Conservancy (EC) of Ashley, Pennsylvania, have announced an agreement in which IAL will assume ownership of the former Glen Alden Coal Company's records to make them publicly available for research.

Once the nation's largest anthracite coal producer,

the Glen Alden Coal Company was forced into bankruptcy in 1976, leaving its company's records to languish in a lengthy bankruptcy proceeding.

Founded in 1992 to put the former anthracite land back into productive use, Earth Conservancy acquired all the Glen Alden Company records to facilitate its work as it pursued its mission. Totalling over 20,000 linear feet, the records date back over a century and represent virtually an intact history of Glen Alden and its predecessors and subsidiaries.

As EC began to contemplate the ultimate conclusion of its work, it began to search for another suitable organization that could be the final custodian of the records, prompting discussions between the two organizations and culminating with the agreement for IAL to acquire the collection.

"The Earth Conservancy Collection is a truly unique collection because it is so complete," said Nick Zmijewski, Archivist at IAL. "So many records that otherwise would have been purged have survived through to today, allowing us to put together a full picture of the operations."

Reflecting on the significance of the agreement, Steve Donches, President & CEO of IAL, stated, "In essence, by making this amazing collection open for public access, we are restoring access to the community's history—and that's exciting."

For more information, visit [Industrial Archives online](#).

MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS COMPLETES DIGITIZATION OF THEIR MAGAZINE

After a little over a year of work, the archives of the Medical Mission Sisters, Unit North America have digitized and made publicly available all issues of their Medical Missionary Magazine. This magazine was published by the Medical Mission Sisters from 1927 to 1970 as a means of making known their work and mission and is one of the best sources of the society's history. In preparation for their upcoming centenary in 2025, every issue can now be found on the [Internet Archive](#).

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY LOANS PHOTOGRAPH FOR NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY EXHIBIT



Nora Holt. Carl Van Vechten, 1932 March 18. Photograph. Carl Van Vechten Memorial Collection of Arts and Letters, Millersville University Archives & Special Collections, MS 91.

Millersville University's Archives & Special Collections recently made a noteworthy loan to the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's upcoming exhibit, "[Brilliant Exiles: American Women in Paris, 1900-1939](#)." The loan, a rare photographic portrait of Nora Holt, will travel as part of the exhibit until the end of 2025. "Brilliant Exiles" celebrates the achievements of 60 American women who pursued personal and professional aspirations in France's cultural capital. Nora Holt, a prominent musician

and a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance, is recognized as one of the exhibit's "Stars of Montmartre Nightlife." Holt's portrait, captured by the famed artistic photographer and Harlem Renaissance supporter Carl Van Vechten, is a part of the Carl Van Vechten Memorial Collection of Arts and Letters at Millersville University. The collection was donated by the late Bruce Kellner, the first biographer of Van Vechten and an emeritus faculty member at Millersville. In addition to Holt's portrait, the collection includes correspondence and personal photography from Van Vechten, as well as a substantial body of his artistic portraiture.

PENN STATE BEHREND ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS FEATURED IN LOCAL PBS SERIES

The Behrend Archives at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College was a busy place this past year as the campus observed its 75 Anniversary and the 125 Anniversary of the founding of Hammermill Paper Company which was founded in 1898 by the Behrend family. Erie's PBS station, WQLN, used the archives extensively in their production of two episodes of the local history series, *Chronicles*. One episode, "The Hammer Mill," focused on the paper company and the other on the Behrends and their contributions to the local community in "The Family Behrend."

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

Taylor Mason

(717) 380-3209

t.mason2270@gmail.com

► VIRGINIA

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL COLLECTIONS WEBSITE

Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) at Old Dominion University (ODU) is pleased to announce the launch of its new [digital collections website](#). From May 2023 to May 2024, SCUA migrated 16 collections, comprising approximately 2 terabytes of storage, from their CONTENTdm-based website to the new Preservica-based website. With the move to Preservica, SCUA is able to preserve and provide access to more born-digital content than ever before. Links between archival descriptions in SCUA's ArchivesSpace finding aids database and the digital collections allow for a seamless transition between the two systems. Some of the highlights featured on the website include digitized material from SCUA's archival collections; newspapers documenting the LGBTQIA+ community in Virginia; and oral histories related to African American, ODU, and women's history.

STEWART BELL JR. ARCHIVES RECEIVES LETTERS OF JOHN AND ANNA SMITH

John Smith (1750–1836) settled in Winchester, Virginia, in the 1770s where he built his house, "Hackwood," and established a plantation. He later married Animus "Anna" Bull (1760-1832) of Norris Town, Pennsylvania. Smith served during Dunmore's War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812, as well as being a representative both in the Virginia House of Delegates and the US House of Representatives.

This is a small collection of forty-six letters written between 1811 and 1833 to the Smith's daughter, Jacqueline, and her family, valuable primarily for the insights they give into the domestic and business concerns of a prominent Winchester

family. The main concerns of the letters are personal and family matters. They express their wishes for their daughter as she attended school and later married, as well as gossipy accounts of their social circle. The letters are also valuable for what they reveal about the lives of the enslaved workforce that enabled the Smiths to run "Hackwood" and their plantation. Accounts of the farm's operations form a recurrent theme in Anna's letters. [The John and Anna Smith Family Papers](#) are now processed and available to researchers.

TRUBAN ARCHIVES RECEIVES AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Between 1989 and 2000, the local government produced three aerial maps of Shenandoah County to assist with tax assessment and planning purposes. In an era before Google Maps and other online resources, these images were the only complete aerial maps of the county known to be produced.

A collection of over 300 images from 1989, 1992, and 2000 were recently donated to the Truban Archives from the Shenandoah County GIS department. These photographs document change in the county during a significant period of historic development. In addition to individual 8x10" photographs, flight line index maps and a large format aerial map of the entire county were included in the donation. Items from the [Shenandoah County Aerial Photograph Collection](#) may be viewed at the Truban Archives in Edinburg, Virginia.

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

Zachary Hottel

(540) 984-8200

zhottel@countylib.org

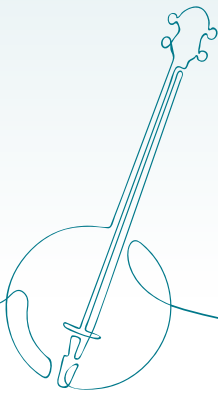
► WEST VIRGINIA

- **CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE**

Lori Hostuttler

(304) 293-1116

lohostuttler@mail.wvu.edu



CREATING A DIGITAL COLLECTION FOR THE FOLK MUSIC OF WEST VIRGINIA

BY DANIELLE EMERLING AND ASHLEY BROOKER



Edden Hammons (seated) playing fiddle and his son James (standing) playing banjo, undated. Photograph. West Virginia History OnView, West Virginia & Regional History Center, <https://wvhistoryonview.org/catalog/026916>.

The West Virginia & Regional History Center (WVRHC) at West Virginia University (WVU) Libraries has been a repository for vast and rich collections of West Virginia and Appalachian folklore and folklife since its founding in the early 1930s. Collections document the culture and traditions of long-settled West Virginians in stories, ballads, and superstitions, as well as contemporary conceptualizations of folklife in new immigrant communities, modern labor struggles, and folk narratives, such as those of the increasingly popular cryptid creatures, like Mothman.¹



Louis Watson Chappell, undated. Photograph. West Virginia History OnView, West Virginia & Regional History Center, <https://wvhistoryonview.org/catalog/021151>.

A strength of this collecting area is folk music, both manuscripts and sound recordings, due to University faculty's collecting and scholarship in the early- to mid-1900s, and the WVRHC's efforts to catalog and index the collections in the 1970s, which resulted in the publication of *West Virginia Folk Music: A Descriptive Guide to Field Recordings in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection*. Notable sound recording

collections include those of Cortez Reece, a leading authority on regional Black folk music; Kenneth Carvell, who primarily collected recordings of gospel music performed by rural choirs and congregations; and Patrick Ward Gainer, a West Virginia native who collected folksongs and folklore throughout this life.

One of the largest and most notable sound recording collections, the Louis Watson Chappell collection, contains more than 2,000 songs, ballads, and fiddle tunes, recorded from 1937–1947. Louis Watson Chappell, an English professor at WVU who was best known for his research establishing a factual basis for the John Henry legend, acquired a custom-made disc recording machine and spent eleven years traveling the state, recording more than 90 different performers on 647 aluminum discs. Of particular interest are recordings of several rarely encountered Child Ballads and legendary fiddler Edwin “Edden” Hammons.²

In recent years, two scholars, Dr. Chris Haddox, a WVU professor and traditional musician from Logan County, and Dr. Gloria Goodwin Raheja, author of a forthcoming book on the traditional music and musicians of Appalachia, have been documenting the individuals who contributed to the rich folk



Sound equipment used by Professor Louis W. Chappell to record folk music, ca. 1973. Photograph. West Virginia History OnView, West Virginia & Regional History Center, <https://wvhistoryonview.org/catalog/023700>.

music traditions in the “Folk Music of the Southern West Virginia Coalfields” project.³ Many sound recordings for this project come from the Chappell collection. To make recordings more easily available to the public, in 2023 the WVRHC’s former Digital Archivist secured support from the West Virginia Humanities Council to create a digital collection of Chappell’s recordings.

THE CHAPPELL DIGITAL COLLECTION PROJECT

Since donation to the WVRHC, many of the folk

music collections, including Chappell, have been migrated from the original disc recordings to reel-to-reel audio tape and then later to compact discs (CDs). During migration, and with the increased storage space new formats offered, audio from multiple discs was often transferred to one reel or CD with multiple performances included in a single audio file. Unfortunately, the contents of the transfers were not always well documented or quality-controlled. In the Chappell digital collection project proposal, the workplan called for pulling audio files from the CDs, creating timestamps for individual performances, and using information from the *West Virginia Folk Music* guide to describe the tracks in the digital repository.

The project team began by transferring files from the CDs to Google Drive for ease of use and sharing. Without documentation of the migrations, it was necessary to create a spreadsheet to document the collections and performances on each file and any other important or helpful information. The project team decided it would be easier for users to access individual performances, rather than longer audio files with timestamps. So each audio file, which was anywhere from twenty-five to sixty minutes in length, was edited into individual performances using the free audio editor Audacity. Graduate assistants entered descriptive metadata for each performance, including information about the performance title, performer, subject, and location.

During this process, the project team found there were multiple copies of some of the audio files and that they had been labeled incorrectly on the CDs. These duplicates gave the appearance of having a complete Chappell collection on CD, but twenty of the sub-collections, or 458 performances, were missing. The missing performances may not have been migrated from the original aluminum discs, mislabeled on a reel, or not migrated to CD. Digitizing additional content was outside the scope of

the grant-funded project, so the missing sub-collections are not included in the digital collection.

The project team also discovered some performances were broken up across different audio files. Sometimes this was because the performance was recorded on two discs and was then separated in the migration to reels. Most of the time when this occurred, it was because the performer began, stopped for some reason, then resumed a song later in the performance. Sometimes a performer would create more than one take, leading to multiple copies of the performance on a file. The project team listened to and analyzed each performance to determine which ones belonged together and then edited them in the correct order. For duplicate performances, the best quality version was included in the digital collection. Due to multiple migrations, audio quality was an issue for this project. Quality fluctuates greatly between performances, and some performances are almost unintelligible.

Finally, the project team identified many performances and performance descriptions that contain harmful language and made the decision to alter the descriptions for the digital collection. A notice on the digital collection page alerts users that some descriptions have been altered because content contains outdated, biased, and offensive views that may be harmful or difficult to view or hear, and that the original records and performances have not been altered because the content provides historical context for understanding the era, attitudes, and opinions of the creators.

CONCLUSION

Despite challenges and incompleteness, the Chappell digital collection of West Virginia folk music now contains more than 1,600 individual performances and can be accessed at <https://folkmusic.lib.wvu.edu>. The project also has given the WVRHC a framework for evaluating legacy collections work and considering where resources can best be applied for remediation. Soon, the WVRHC plans to digitize the original discs in the Chappell archives so that a complete and higher-quality collection will be available online, providing more people with access to this invaluable resource for studying the cultures and communities of West Virginia and Appalachia.

Banjo Illustration: © Dancopol / Adobe Stock

ENDNOTES

- 1 The WVRHC’s West Virginia Folklife Program Collection is an ongoing archival collection consisting of materials generated by folklife fieldwork and programs conducted by the West Virginia Folklife Program at the West Virginia Humanities Council beginning in November 2015. <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/collections/wv-folklife-collection>
- 2 John A. Cuthbert. *West Virginia Folk Music: A Descriptive Guide to Field Recordings in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection*. West Virginia University Press, 1982. https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvhist_bibliog/2/
- 3 John Christopher Haddox. “Folk Music of the Southern West Virginia Coalfields.” <https://omekas.lib.wvu.edu/home/s/folkmusic/page/About>



WQED AND THE AMERICAN ARCHIVE OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING

PRESERVING AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO BLACK HISTORY

Molly Tighe (*WQED, Digital Project Manager*), Miranda Villesik (*GBH, Digital Ingest Manager*),
and Rachel Curtis (*Library of Congress, Digital Project Specialist*)

PUBLIC MEDIA PROVIDES A DISTINCT SERVICE TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES BY SHOWCASING INDIVIDUALS, EVENTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH STORYTELLING THAT EDUCATES, INFORMS, AND INSPIRES AUDIENCES.

Whether through documentaries, public affairs programs, radio concerts, or televised town hall discussions, records created by public media organizations embody a unique and cogent corpus of regional history and community-based cultural heritage. Despite the continuing value of public media archives, content producers face significant challenges to preservation and access efforts, including enormous quantities of content, the opacity of time-based media, and the complexity of digital preservation overall.

WQED's "Pittsburgh Black History and *Black Horizons* Preservation and Access Project" demonstrates how public media organizations can engage with cross-institutional teams to ensure that culturally significant archives will be made accessible for generations to come. Alongside colleagues at GBH and the Library of Congress (LOC)—who together form the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB)—WQED Multimedia has embarked on an effort to secure the preservation and accessibility of some of its most historically and culturally significant archival materials. The effort is supported by National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant programs.

WQED Multimedia was founded in 1953 and began broadcasting in 1954. It is recognized as the nation's first community-supported television station, a precursor to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). In 1968, WQED began production of *Black Horizons*, one of the earliest and longest-running television programs designed to address the needs of Black community members. Like Boston-based GBH's *Say Brother*, New York-based NET's *Black Journal*, and Detroit Public Television's *American Black Journal*; WQED's *Black Horizons* stood as a community response to the building momentum of the Civil Rights Movement and as a reflection of the recommendations of US President Johnson's 1968 Kerner Commission to diversify media hiring and coverage. WQED's *Black Horizons* provided a platform to amplify Black culture, experience, and history through discussion of issues with both local and national impact, including transportation equity, welfare rights, Black success stories, and police violence. Also providing an outlet for arts performances, *Black Horizons* featured jazz and gospel groups, dance and theater companies, African arts ensembles, hip hop musicians, and visual artists as well as interviews with Black luminaries like August Wilson, Mae Jemison, and Billy Porter. In 2010, *Black Horizons* became *Horizons* and the program focus expanded to include a growing number of ethnic and underrepresented communities.

Black Horizons spurred the development of numerous documentaries that presented in-depth exploration of the history, culture, and experiences of Pittsburgh's Black community. These documentaries include *Jim Crow Pennsylvania* (2007), *Hip Hop Pittsburgh: A Black Horizons Special* (2002), and *Barbershops PA Stylin'* (2005). Adding

to the significance of this work, WQED's Black history programming provided training, mentorship, and a spirit of empowerment that catalyzed numerous African American media careers, including those of Chris Moore and Minette Seate, both inductees into the Silver Circle Honor Society of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Though an item-level collection inventory completed in 2010 underscored the imperative to migrate WQED's library of Black history content from obsolete formats, the organization recognized a capacity gap in achieving the preservation, public dissemination, and community engagement that these materials warranted. Support from the NEH and from the NHPRC allowed WQED to engage a professional archivist for the management of an effort to preserve and provide access to legacy Black history materials. This work includes fulfillment of all responsibilities relating to the deposit of reformatted archival collections and newly created collections metadata with the AAPB.

The AAPB, a collaboration between the LOC and GBH in Boston, aims to preserve and make accessible significant historical content created by public media, and to coordinate a national effort to save at-risk public media

before its content is lost. Established with funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a 100-station inventory and reformatting project, the AAPB works with partner stations to grow an increasingly robust inventory, a growing body of 180,000 files maintained for long-term preservation, and an evolving, interactive outreach program.

To participate in the AAPB, contributing stations must manage all tasks relating to collection inventory and cataloging, coordination with LOC and GBH on metadata and transfer logistics, and arrangements with digitization vendors. For WQED, an institution without an existing archival program, this has included the development of all inventory and cataloging procedures, identification and resolution of collection anomalies, and management of project timelines to realize deliverable targets. Since hiring a digitization project manager in September 2023, WQED has completed a PBCore-based media inventory and established unique identifiers to track assets throughout the reformatting process. Activities include defining preferred file types for each separate AAPB partner, variations for including AI-generated transcripts, and use of the BagIt specification. Additionally, transfer methods differ between AAPB partners, with access versions for GBH

◆
WQED Multimedia was founded in 1953 and began broadcasting in 1954. It is recognized as the nation's first community-supported television station, a precursor to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).
◆



Exterior view of WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2023. Image courtesy of WQED Multimedia.

delivered electronically by WQED and preservation versions for the LOC distributed in batches of large, external hard drives sent directly from the digitization vendor. Bi-weekly meetings between WQED's Digitization Project Manager, GBH's Digital Ingest Manager, LOC's AAPB Digital Project Specialist, and GBH's Manager of MLA Digital Assets and Operations facilitate smooth resolution of any issues.

File transfer to the LOC, the preservation arm of the AAPB, facilitates the ingest of donated materials into the Library's archive for long-term preservation. Once files are received, checksums are verified and metadata records are created in the Library's collection management software. Python scripts and an SQL database facilitate the ingest workflows, including migration of station-provided metadata and a unique identifier. Once ingested, the Library will maintain the preservation files, routinely verifying their fixity and restoring files from back-up if necessary.

While the LOC focuses on preservation, GBH concentrates on access. Archivists at GBH receive the access files, verify their checksums, and prepare them to be made accessible on the AAPB website. The process includes quality control, cataloging, and copyright review. Once on the AAPB site, GBH archivists coordinate the long-term preservation of the digitized content on external hard drives, magnetic LTO tape, and in a Sony Ci repository. GBH also promotes the rich contents of the AAPB to let the public know about these artifacts of public broadcasting history.

Following deposit to the AAPB, all content digitized and cataloged for WQED's "Pittsburgh Black History and *Black Horizons* Preservation and Access Project" will be viewable on-site at the LOC and by appointment at the GBH Media Library and Archives. Online access to WQED's complete Black history collection inventory and on-demand playback

of numerous episodes will be available through the AAPB website (americanarchive.org). AI-generated episode transcripts are linked to each catalog record, allowing patrons to keyword search beyond episode titles and descriptions. Researchers can request limited research access to content not available online by contacting GBH. License requests are handled by WQED.

Collaboration with AAPB affords WQED with outreach support to encourage community engagement with newly accessible collection materials. As a contributor to AAPB, WQED can have its collection items integrated with FIX IT+, an IMLS-funded transcription editing tool that facilitates crowdsourcing for line-by-line review of computer-generated transcripts. Additionally,

AAPB collaborators can provide guidance to WQED about hosting local FIX IT+ edit-a-thons or other events that raise local awareness and engagement around media heritage. While on-site access to the full collection isn't currently available, WQED is actively exploring opportunities for engagement through these materials.

Public media archives provide a unique view of American life, documenting stories that may otherwise be lost. This project demonstrates the critical role cross-institutional collaborations play in preserving this history. WQED Multimedia's efforts to preserve and provide access to its rich Black history and *Black Horizons* collections through collaboration with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting provide a replicable model for related collections across the MARAC region. ♦

IMAGE PAGE 18: *Production Crew for WQED's Black Horizons Special "Make a Joyful Noise," 1984-1986.* Image courtesy of WQED Multimedia.

Mid-Atlantic Archivist is looking for content

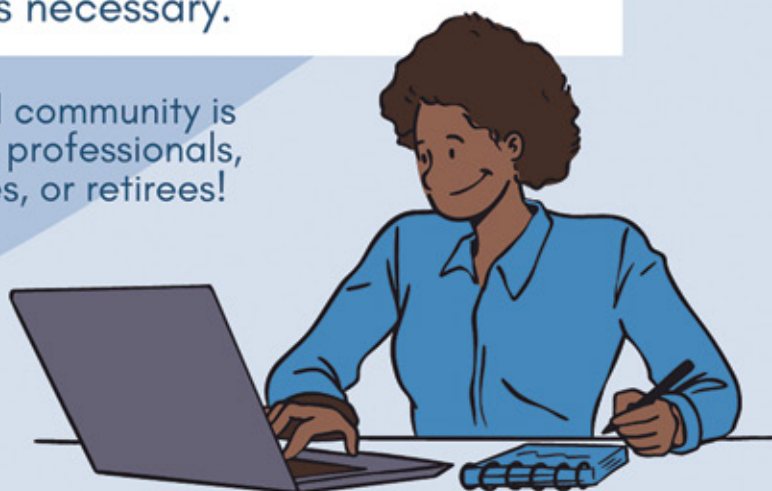
SOME TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

- ✓ Planning/opening an exhibit
- ✓ Processing of a collection
- ✓ Digitization projects
- ✓ Funding and Grants
- ✓ Creation of workflows
- ✓ DEI initiatives
- ✓ Archival book reviews

Full length articles typically range 750-1000 words and include several images, but other lengths can be accommodated as necessary.

Any individual in the archival community is welcome to submit: archival professionals, students, contract employees, or retirees!

*Please contact us at
maa@marac.info to learn
more.*



In Memoriam

RUTH SIMMONS was a tenured member of the Library faculty in the Alexander Library at Rutgers University, serving an extended term as Director of Special Collections in the University Archives during her long career. As an archivist, she specialized in Japan's Meiji Restoration period, including Japanese-American relations during that era. She passed away on April 20.

Ruth joined MARAC in 1980 and served on the Local Arrangements Committee for the Spring 2000 meeting in New Brunswick, NJ.

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<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		\$20,908.00	52%
Conference Registration	\$68,000.00	\$33,012.00	\$9,080.00	\$8,608.00		\$50,700.00	75%
Conference Vendors	\$13,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,400.00	\$1,055.00		\$12,955.00	100%
Conference Sponsorship	\$5,000.00	\$4,300.00	\$0.00	\$250.00		\$4,550.00	91%
Publication Advertising	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$988.00	\$0.00		\$988.00	49%
Publication Sales	\$400.00	\$45.00	\$90.00	\$135.00		\$270.00	68%
Mailing List Sales	\$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		\$5,015.00	143%
Bank Interest	\$300.00	\$113.77	\$322.08	\$323.91		\$759.76	253%
Investment Interest	\$2,000.00	\$184.55	\$2,990.70	\$497.31		\$3,672.56	184%
Gifts to Operations	\$800.00	\$285.00	\$1,540.00	\$250.00		\$2,075.00	259%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		\$215.00	0%
Total Income	\$135,000.00	\$65,057.32	\$20,979.78	\$16,071.22	\$0.00	\$102,108.32	76%
EXPENSES							
Administrator	\$22,000.00	\$2,999.89	\$4,073.16	\$4,488.25		\$11,561.30	53%
Web Services	\$8,775.00	\$7,954.37	\$194.40	\$194.40		\$8,343.17	95%
Archivist	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	100%
Accountant	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Advocacy	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00		\$1,800.00	100%
Insurance Policy	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Phone	\$600.00	\$149.27	\$149.62	\$149.67		\$448.56	75%
Postage	\$400.00	\$60.42	\$8.55	\$46.92		\$115.89	29%
Office Supplies	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33.16		\$33.16	27%
Food	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$2,162.55	\$0.00		\$2,162.55	60%
Travel	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$478.74	\$0.00		\$478.74	35%
Equipment	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Printing and Design	\$2,500.00	\$752.77	\$260.71	\$426.30		\$1,439.78	58%
Conference	\$78,000.00	\$6,663.48	\$51,879.67	\$175.00		\$58,718.15	75%
Lodging	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$417.00	\$0.00		\$417.00	42%
Honoraria	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$100.00		\$900.00	56%
Awards and Prizes	\$1,450.00	\$62.75	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$562.75	39%
Scholarships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Banking Fees	\$7,200.00	\$2,183.07	\$1,945.79	\$516.58		\$4,645.44	65%
Investments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	0%
Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$45.00	\$72.00	\$425.00		\$542.00	181%
Total Expenses	\$135,000.00	\$21,671.02	\$63,942.19	\$7,555.28	\$0.00	\$93,168.49	69%
Net Income or (Loss)		\$43,386.30	(\$42,962.41)	\$8,515.94	\$0.00	\$8,939.83	

<u>Account Balances</u>		<u>Opening</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Closing</u>	
PNC Checking	\$88,103.25	Operating	\$423.89	\$16,071.22	(\$7,555.28)	\$8,939.83
PNC Savings	\$77,550.79	Restricted	\$140,515.13	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	\$139,315.13
Vanguard Bonds	\$88,857.45	Reserve	\$47,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,250.00
Total	\$254,511.49	Surplus	\$58,981.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,981.53
		Totals	\$247,170.55	\$16,071.22	(\$8,755.28)	\$254,486.49

Summary - Third Quarter FY 2024

Opening Balance	\$247,170.55
Total Income	\$16,071.22
Total Expenses	(\$8,755.28)
Closing Balance	\$254,486.49

<u>Restricted Funds</u>		<u>Opening</u>	<u>New Gifts</u>	<u>Spending</u>	<u>Closing</u>	
PNC Savings	\$50,457.68	Disaster Assist.	\$20,335.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,335.00
Vanguard Bonds	\$88,857.45	Education	\$106,563.51	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	\$105,363.51
Total	\$139,315.13	Graduate Schol	\$8,775.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,775.62
		Finch Award	\$4,841.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,841.00
		Totals	\$140,515.13	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	\$139,315.13

New Members

March 2024

Thomas Cleary LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Madeline Dietrich..... Old Dominion University
Sarah Fradkin Self-Employed
Lou Hines..... Interference Archive
Jessica Schwindenhammer..... Pennsylvania Western University - Clarion
Jennifer Ullman Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc

April 2024

Ruth Cody Virginia Commonwealth University
Amy Dobrinen..... Fredericksburg Circuit Court
Heather Holt..... American Urological Association
Kayla Jenkins..... NAACP Legal Defense Fund
John Kennedy Moorland Spingarn Research Center
Kathleen Morrison McDonogh School, Johns Hopkins
Jolie Smith..... Simmons University
Andrew Williams..... University of Pennsylvania

May 2024

Carol Brooks..... The Intergenerational Griot Project
Britney Crawford..... Self Employed
Shelly Florence-Glover Kanestio Historical Society
Nicholas Michalski University at Buffalo, Poetry Collection
Ryan Newell Rider University
Jack Patterson New York Public Library



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