In This Issue

12 A VERY CRAFTY SILENT AUCTION
14 COMMEMORATING CAMP MEADE
20 MARAC VIRTUAL MEETING 2023
Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the winter season after all the excitement of the season’s festivities. As we begin 2023, I’m excited to finish our 50th anniversary commemorations and move on to a new, exciting chapter for MARAC.

As we transition out of our celebratory phase and begin looking to MARAC’s future, this period conveniently coincides with our next round of strategic planning. If you attended the College Park Fall 2022 Business Meeting in October, you know that I’m unnaturally excited about strategic planning. You may also have heard me mention the areas we’ll focus on as we begin our strategic planning: advocacy; education; inclusivity and accessibility; institutional organization and transparency; and outreach.

We haven’t started planning in earnest yet, but since we’ve worked out our framework we can get a jump start on our advocacy and transparency initiatives and that’s where you come in. When we talk about advocacy, we’re looking at ways that MARAC can help its membership deal with the issues facing them on both a micro and a macro level. With this round of strategic planning, the Steering Committee will focus on ways to position MARAC as a better advocate on issues like government hang-ups, job security and value, and much more.

We’re also looking to make MARAC a more transparent organization. Strategic planning will help us create a plan to lessen the mysteries around how MARAC works and where its membership can go to find information about institutional operations and get assistance. Many questions have come up about who does what and how things get accomplished; Steering would like to help dispel confusion through more transparency. In service of these two goals, I want to talk about how you can get in touch with MARAC leadership and encourage you to think about how MARAC can better serve you.

First, I want to draw your attention to where you can find information about MARAC operations and how to contact members of the Steering Committee. If you’re curious about what happens when the Steering Committee meets, you can find all of the meeting minutes, officer reports, and more online back to 2011. Plus, Steering Committee meetings are open to the entirety of the MARAC membership. The Steering Committee meets four times a year, once at each conference and in January and July. On-conference Steering meeting time and location information is always listed in the meeting program; you can contact me at chair@marac.info if you’d like information for joining the virtual January and July Steering meetings. You can also find contact information for all of the members of the Steering Committee and their titles on the MARAC website.

Second, every MARAC member should know how to bring issues to Steering. Are you grappling with a workplace issue? Is there a challenge to the archives profession at large you think MARAC should make a statement on? How can MARAC help make the archival field more visible, more valued by our constituents, or more accessible and inclusive? Are you facing a challenge I haven’t mentioned or is there something you just think Steering should know about? Do you need some advice? You can always contact me for advice or assistance at sara.a.borden@gmail.com or chair@marac.info. You can bring your issue to a specific MARAC officer by using the contact information available. Alternatively, you can submit the form that is available on the same page.

So, I want you to ask yourself: what can MARAC do for you? We want to stand by your side and advocate with you, so submit your issue to Steering! Don’t forget, you can bring it directly to me, to any of our MARAC officers, or to the Steering Committee at large. Let’s make 2023 a fabulous, active year for MARAC!

Sincerely,

Sara A. Borden, CA
MARAC Chair
THANK YOU, DONORS!

Celebrating MARAC’s 50th anniversary, 135 people contributed $11,500 to MARAC’s 50 FOR THE FUTURE campaign. Thank you for your generosity that enables MARAC to help the archival profession grow stronger, to create a brighter future, and to move forward together—just as we have done for 50 years!

Thank you to the all the donors listed below and the many that gave anonymously.

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Let’s start the conversation. sales@atlassys.com
Looking back at MARAC’s 50th Anniversary conference, we definitely switched things up a bit. The commemorative theme, “Our Roots Illuminate Our Future,” provided an opportunity to look back at 50 years of archival camaraderie, education, and progress and see how we could use our past to illuminate the future of our profession and MARAC. The program offered twenty-two sessions with topics that included documenting diverse communities, activism, and invisible histories; sharing community oral histories; repairing historical narratives and addressing past practices; exploring how the profession handled the pandemic and lessons learned; increasing accessibility; and working with digital collections.

For this meeting, we explored new ideas suggested by the Meeting Model Task Force, including expanding the usual schedule an additional day and providing three continental breakfasts, including before the Business Meeting. We added an extra reception and plenary to celebrate MARAC’s 50th Anniversary, dropped the Friday luncheon because of the cost, and added a third plenary. Some of the ideas were liked by attendees, and some were not.

Workshop participants immersed themselves in a variety of useful topics such as starting a digitization program; dating early photographs; gaining project management skills; crafting compelling exhibits; and genealogy for archivists.

Nineteen vendors attended and eleven posters were presented—more than in recent memory! Additionally, we had nine sponsors that helped offset some of the expenses of the expanded-format conference.

The Meet & Greet was held at the Sheppard Gallery in the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on Wednesday evening.

This unique location included a sculpture garden and two galleries of artwork by Joseph Sheppard. The Membership Committee hosted a bingo game to coax new and current membership to mingle.

On Friday night, The Hall CP, a community-oriented space with both indoor and outdoor seating, hosted the reception with exciting food and beverage options. Since the University hosted homecoming the same weekend, we were delighted to find a location that was close to campus and had both plenty of parking and diverse menu options.

An open house and multiple tours at the Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Maryland allowed all attendees the chance to see where MARAC’s archives are housed. During the Thursday open house the UMD iSchool hosted a luncheon that included student poster sessions and networking opportunities. Conference tours included the College Park Aviation Museum, Riversdale House Museum, the Niels Bohr Library, the Laurel Historical Museum, National Archives at College Park, the National Agricultural Library and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, as well as two tours on the UMD Campus, the Driskell Center, and the Performing Arts Library.

Last, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, a silent auction was held to raise money for the Graduate Student Scholarship that displayed the handiwork of many of our talented members. The final minutes of the auction were exciting and fun for all, especially those who had the “winning bids!” Over $3,200 was raised!

Thank you again to the 427 members who attended! You made the Fall 2022 meeting at College Park a success!
CALL FOR REVIEWERS

Mid-Atlantic Archivist is looking for motivated individuals to review publications in 2024 and beyond! Email MAA at the address below and be added to our database.

- Great for early career archivists
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Interested? Contact MAA:
maa@marac.info
DELWARE

NEW COLLECTION STORAGE SPACE FOR NEMOURS ESTATE ARCHIVES

Katheryn (Kery) Lawson, Archivist-Historian at Nemours Estate, reports that as of October 24, the Estate’s archival and library holdings have been moved into a newly built collections storage building. Situated on the property shared by both Nemours Estate—the former mansion and gardens of Alfred I. duPont (1864-1935) and his wives Alicia Bradford duPont (1907-1920) and Jessie Ball duPont (1884-1970)—and the Nemours Children’s Hospital (formerly the Alfred I. duPont Institute/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children), the new storage building’s location reflects the archives’ shared holdings for the duPont family and the early hospital. With climate control now well in hand, Kery hopes to make the manuscript, map, and library collections publicly accessible for the first time.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY BIOETHICS RESEARCH DIGITIZES LECTURES

The Bioethics Research Library Archives at Georgetown University is thrilled to announce that over 350 hours of lectures have been digitized and made available to the public as part of the “50 Years of Bioethics: Digitizing the Lectures of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics” project. The project was sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) FY2022 American Rescue Plan Grants Program.

The lectures were delivered at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics (KIE) between 1973 and 2017 and address the major bioethical concerns of the past fifty years, including public health policy, reproductive health care, rationing of care, euthanasia, elder care, clinical research ethics, stem cell research, gene therapy, the HIV-AIDS crisis, religious ethics as they relate to health care, the intersection of bioethics and race, and feminist perspectives on bioethics. These lectures were delivered by KIE scholars and a variety of other prominent doctors, philosophers, public health officials, theologians, and scientists as part of the annual Intensive Bioethics Course and other programs.

The recordings can be accessed online via DigitalGeorgetown.

HILLWOOD ESTATE PUBLISHES BOOK ON PHILANTHROPIST MAJORIE MERRIWEATHER POST

In October Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens published The Joy of It: The Houses and Collections of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Archives and Special Collections staff at Hillwood were integral to the success of the project, providing research, images, and rights verifications. Head of Archives and Special Collections Jason Speck co-authored the book, including a chapter on the history of the library and archives at Hillwood, information that had never before been published.

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NEW JERSEY

GITENSTEIN LIBRARY AWARDED SAVE AMERICA’S TREASURES GRANT

TCNJ’s Gitenstein Library was recently awarded $311,594 from The National Park Service’s Save America’s Treasures grant program, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The funds will help the college create a digital preservation infrastructure for its Archives and provide for the physical preservation and organization of more than 200 linear feet of historical records. For more information, contact Deb Schiff, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, at schiffd@tcnj.edu.

NEWS FROM THE NEW BRUNSWICK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY (AND ARCHIVE)

On November 4, Speaker Erik Burro presented Steamboats of New Brunswick on the history of steamboat transportation in New Brunswick History. In addition, intern Lanai McAuly mounted a companion exhibit, New Brunswick on the Move. The exhibit was designed to appeal to grade school students who earned prizes by completing a 3-question form.

On February 4, for Black History Month, Rick Gefken will give an author talk on his book Stories of Slavery in New Jersey. An exhibit on the differences and similarities of slavery in the North vs. the South is in the works. Once again, the exhibit will be geared toward school-age children and is expected to have a Jeopardy-like game with prizes to encourage the interest of children in history.

The archive will be adding the complete collection of depositions, interviews and materials of the Hall Mills Murder to the New Brunswick Free Public Library website.

The recent acquisition of Civil War-era letters from two donors are also in the process of being transcribed for addition to the website.

CAPES LOOKING FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS

The Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) offers free professional assessments by consultants from the New Jersey Caucus of historical paper collections held by New Jersey archives, libraries, historical societies, agencies, and other non-profit organizations free of charge. CAPES Consultants visit organizations, meet with staff, examine the archival repository and records holdings of the organization and write an assessment of the general archival needs of the organization. CAPES Consultants receive a stipend of $550 plus travel expenses for their time. Qualifications:

• Member in good standing of MARAC NJ Caucus
• Working knowledge and/or practical experience in archival functions (appraisal, accessioning, arrangement, description, security, preservation, and reformatting)
• Bachelor’s degree and at least 4 years of professional experience in an archival setting or a Master’s degree in history or library sciences and at least 2 years of professional experience in an archival setting

Please send a current resume to Janette Pardo, CAPES Coordinator, at capescoordinator@gmail.com.

TARA MAHARJAN MOVING TO NJ STATE ARCHIVES

Tara Maharjan has resigned from Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives and has taken a new position as the Electronic Records Archivist at the New Jersey State Archives, effective December 5, 2022. Please find her new contact information in the MARAC Membership Directory.

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NEW YORK

BROOKLYN COLLEGE LIBRARY’S ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIGITIZES COLLECTION ON HASIDISM IN AMERICA

In 2021 the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) awarded the Brooklyn College Library’s Archives and Special Collections unit a $150,000 grant to digitize and share with the public unused footage from the creation of the 1997 landmark documentary A Life Apart: Hasidism in America. The project, overseen by Brooklyn College Archivist Colleen Bradley-Sanders, both digitized approximately 69 hours of outtakes and remastered and color-corrected the documentary. Project Archivist Roberta Newman indexed the footage, created the metadata for the records, and wrote the finding aid, which contains links to the digitized materials. The footage can also be accessed from the Archives website.
Described by producers Oren Rudavsky and Menachem Daum as “audiovisual field notes” on the religious practices, cultural mores, communal organization, family life, inter-communal relations, and the Americanization process of a distinctive immigrant community from 1936-1996, the film and the outtakes include interviews with scholars, community members and neighbors from the Brooklyn neighborhoods where the majority of America’s Hasidim live. The material has great potential for enriching scholarship in a broad range of humanities disciplines, including religious studies, immigration history, urban studies, sociology, anthropology, ethology, folklore and ethnomusicology.

The documentary was screened at Lincoln Center’s New York Jewish Film Festival on January 19 at the Walter Reade Theatre, followed by a moderated panel featuring the filmmakers and a few key participants from the film itself. The film will be re-released by Menemsha films and will be screening in festivals and in limited theatrical settings.

Questions about the collection may be sent to specialcollections@brooklyn.cuny.edu. For questions regarding the film itself or to request screenings, please go to menemshafilms.com or contact Mr. Rudavsky at oren.rudavsky@gmail.com.

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PENNSYLVANIA

CHATHAM ARCHIVES CREATES ARCHIVAL PLAYLIST

In celebration of National Archives Month, the Chatham Archives created “A Very Archival Playlist,” a Spotify playlist packed with archives-themed songs and annotated (for extra context, you know) by archivists from across the US and Canada. Read the song annotations and listen to the playlist. Following the launch of the playlist, archivists from across the internet contributed tons of ideas for songs, all of which have been added to the list, creating a multi-hour archival sound experience. Know a song that is secretly about archives? The Chatham Archives will happily add it to the list.

PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARCHIVES ON YOUTUBE

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives now has Youtube! This platform will help us share preservation tips, behind the scenes videos, unique historical clips, and oral history interviews! Go search and subscribe to @pahousearchives1682.

PITT ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PROCESSES PAPERS OF KNOWN JEWISH SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADER KIPP DAWSON

The Archives & Special Collections is pleased to announce the acquisition and completion of the processing of the Kipp Dawson Papers. Kipp Dawson (1945-) has been a social justice leader for over 60 years, building coalitions in the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam anti-war movement, the women’s movement, the gay liberation movement, the labor movement, and the education justice movement.

Dawson’s own identities as a lesbian, Jewish, working-class woman from a multi-racial family shaped her approach to movement organizing, with an emphasis on engaging people in collective action. Dawson’s many notable activities include co-founder of the first Civil Rights club at Berkeley High School in 1960, in solidarity with the Southern student sit-in movement (which formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee [SNCC]). She was a co-organizer of the Free Speech Movement at San Francisco State College and co-organizer, and was arrested in, six large-scale sit-ins bringing an end to all-white employment practices in San Francisco, led by the Ad Hoc Committee to End Discrimination, for which she eventually served 29 days in jail in 1966.

Dawson served as co-founder of the Vietnam Day Committee in Berkeley with Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman. She started the Vietnam Day Committee at San Francisco State College and co-organized many of the largest anti-war activities of the 1960s. Dawson organized and served as Executive Director, West Coast Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam and shared the fundraising stage with Janis Joplin. She opened for the 1967 rally of 65,000 people with Coretta Scott King, Judy Collins, and others.
While in NYC (1967-1977), Dawson participated in the first and second Congresses to Unite Women; was a steering committee member for the Women’s Strike for Equality; met in Betty Friedan’s living room with Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisolm and others; served on the organizing committee of Christopher Street Liberation Day in NYC, which created the first annual PRIDE parades on the anniversaries of the Stonewall Uprising.

Dawson ran for Senate from New York on the Socialist Workers Party ticket in 1970. Dawson came out as a lesbian in 1970 and moved to Pittsburgh in 1977 with then-partner Ginny Hildebrand where she became an organizer for the Pittsburgh Socialist Workers Party. She was hired in 1979 as a coal miner, a position she held for 13 years. She was part of the first Coal Employment Project Women Miners Support Team which inspired her to become an activist and organizer for United Mine Workers of America Local 1197. In 1984 Dawson traveled to England to support the British miners' strikes. She traveled to San Salvador in 1985 representing UMWA Local 1197 at the conference of FENESTRAS Salvadoran trade union federation.

Dawson fortunately saved a large portion of archival materials that document her activism from her early years as a teen in California, as a young adult in New York City, to her final relocation to Pittsburgh, Pa. Though retired from various careers in the workforce, Dawson remains active in progressive causes and continues to be a voice for social justice throughout the world.

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- **VIRGINIA**

**GEORGE C. MARSHALL FOUNDATION BEGINS DIGITIZING GEORGE C. MARSHALL PAPERS**

The George C. Marshall papers are a large collection that primarily contain correspondence, documents, speeches, and writings by Marshall over his 50-year career in the military and government. The papers are part of the collections at the George C. Marshall Foundation in Lexington, Va.

The digitization of the Marshall papers is part of the Foundation’s strategic plan, and will be done in batches to avoid having the large collection unavailable for a long period of time. The first 40 Hollinger boxes should be back in the early summer of 2023, and temporary archival technicians will add metadata on an item level, so each item can be findable in the library catalog.

**SHENANDOAH VALLEY ARCHIVISTS HOST ARCHIVES FAIR**

Archives from throughout the Shenandoah Valley participated in the annual Shenandoah Valley Archives Fair, held at Bridgewater College on October 12. Participating institutions greeted members of the public and local news media while sharing information about their collections, hours, accessibility, and research policies. After the end of the public event, archives staff attended a networking lunch and tour of the recently renovated Robert R. Newlen and John C. Bradford Special Collections at Bridgewater College.

Twelve organizations participated in the event including the Augusta County Historical Society, George C. Marshall Foundation Library and Archives, Handley Regional Library’s Stewart Bell Archives, James Madison University Special Collection, Massanutten Regional Library, Robert R. Newlen ’75 & John C. Bradford Special Collections at Bridgewater College, Rockingham County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Rocktown History, Shenandoah County Library’s Truban Archives, Shenandoah University Special Collections and EUB Archives, Washington & Lee University Library Special Collections, and Waynesboro Public Library.

**LENA F. FULLER COLLECTION NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TRUBAN ARCHIVES**

The Shenandoah County Library’s Truban Archives recently completed processing the Lena F. Fuller Collection. This collection, compiled by local researcher and community member Lena French Fuller, contains documents, images, and audio recordings related to the communities, families, and people of Shenandoah County and the wider Shenandoah Valley.

Review the collections finding aid for a more complete description.

**JMU LIBRARIES CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF MARCHING BAND**

JMU Libraries has a new 3-part exhibit celebrating the marching band’s first 50 years. “Virginia’s Finest: 50 Years of Marching Royal Dukes” is on exhibit on the second floor of Carrier Library, adjacent to JMU Special Collections’ Reading Room 203. Read about it here and tour the online exhibit. Additional physical displays are located in the Music Building and Music Library!

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WEST VIRGINIA

WEST VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES ON TIKTOK

Check out excellent content from the West Virginia State Archives on TikTok. They have created video series such as "On This Day in West Virginia History" and "Photos with a Fun Fact" as well as read from diaries and posted clips of old news footage.

WEST VIRGINIA'S POETIC HEART: CELEBRATING WEST VIRGINIA POETS AND POETRY

The West Virginia & Regional History Center holds the papers and books of many of West Virginia’s esteemed poets. The 2022 West Virginia Day celebration explored the “poetic heart” of the Mountain State through two poetry readings and an exhibition.

On June 21, West Virginia’s Poet Laureate, Marc Harshman, read several poems from his repertoire and also shared some of the works of fellow West Virginia poets Maggie Anderson and former laureate Louise McNeill. Maggie Anderson joined Marc for a follow-up event on October 10. Both poets engaged the audience with their poems and their comradery. They exemplify the poetic heart, the character, the dreams, and the experiences of West Virginians that is evident in the works of writers and poets in the state. Their readings stirred, soothed, and inspired those in attendance. Recordings of the readings will soon be available for viewing on the WVU Libraries Youtube channel.

Marc and Maggie are prominently featured in the Center’s poetry exhibition, West Virginia’s Poetic Heart: Celebrating West Virginia Poets and Poetry, on display in the Center’s Davis Family Galleries. Including them, the exhibit features twenty-seven West Virginia poets, some well-known, others newly discovered, spanning from the 19th to the 21st century. While every poet in the exhibit has a unique voice, some common themes emerged in the exhibited poems: the natural beauty of West Virginia; food and folk traditions; resilience and resistance to stereotypes; and a desire for recognition and social justice.

Each case presents a poet and books and papers that are held at the West Virginia & Regional History Center. The exhibit begins with the state’s seven official Poet Laureates and then turns to other poets who are represented in the Center’s collections. Published poems are displayed with journals and drafts to show the evolution of works and demonstrate the typical materials found in poets’ archival collections. On that note, the exhibit is highly selective. Much more content is available at History Center for scholars and others interested in the development of poetry.

An excerpt from the poem, “If You Live in West Virginia,” by Bessie Woodson Yancey is highlighted on the 2022 commemorative West Virginia Day poster. The verse heralds the natural beauty of the state and exudes pride in our “beloved home.” Yancey lived in Huntington, West Virginia, and left her mark as an educator, writer, and activist. Her volume of poetry, Echoes from the Hills, was published by her brother, noted Black historian Carter G. Woodson, in 1939. The volume contains poems for children and adults that express a strong sense of Appalachian and Black identity.

West Virginia’s Poetic Heart: Celebrating West Virginia Poets and Poetry will be on display through May 2023.

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As MARAC Development Coordinator, I needed a way to boost the Graduate School Archival Education Scholarship fund. Established in 2018, this is the newest scholarship awarded by MARAC and has yet to build up a reserve of money. Rather than the usual appeal for donations, I wanted to do something engaging. A silent auction featuring handcrafted items donated by our members seemed a perfect idea. How hard could it be? After all, there are many crocheters and knitters among us, and I was sure other talents were waiting to be discovered. Spoiler alert: it was both easier and harder than I thought.

Back in February, I sent out a call gauging interest in donations for a silent auction. There were plenty of willing crafters, so the auction was on. Fast forward to October and the College Park meeting. A total of 80 items from 24 donors went up for auction. A few extra crafts were available for immediate purchase. The attendees admired the skill of their colleagues and then quickly began strategizing how to win the object of their desire. It started slow, then began to build. There were many good-natured rivalries, and some deals struck amongst the bidders, culminating in a few all-out bidding wars and a scramble to enter last-minute bids. It was thrilling, chaotic, and so much fun!

The crafts were terrific, and the members were generous with their bids. Initially, I thought we would be lucky to raise $2,000. The final tally exceeded all expectations coming in at $3,299.62! I cannot thank the crafters and volunteers enough for their enthusiasm and generosity. I extend special thanks to Jessica Johnson, who pitched in when I was getting in a bit over my head. Her assistance with signage, tagging, and staging made everything look great and run smoothly. And as always, thank you to Sara Predmore for her help and excellent suggestions.

Several people expressed their enjoyment of the event and wished for another silent auction at a future conference. I hope that others will be interested in planning the event. I was optimistic that I could organize the event with minimal fuss, and for the most part, I did. However, the actual auction, while good for a first try, could have been even better. Here’s what worked and what I think can be improved!

**WHAT WORKED**

- **Have a theme and stick to it.** From the beginning, I wanted the auction to be crafts, thinking that it would be more meaningful and thus more likely to succeed. This worked, as every item sold! The theme was elastic enough to allow for experiences too. Some members might not be crafty, but they have talents to share, so those were also offered.

- **Start soliciting items early and check in regularly.** Since these are handcrafted items, people need plenty of time to create them. Regular check-ins keep everyone on schedule, and a shared spreadsheet allows crafters to describe the items and update their progress. Also, get in touch with the Local Arrangements Committee to request space and tables as early as possible.

- **Be flexible.** Life happens, and some donors have to withdraw or make fewer items than initially planned. That is okay! We had established good communication, so they let me know, and I could plan accordingly.

- **Create a catalog.** It does not have to be fancy; a Google Doc works fine. It provides auction details, item images and descriptions, and aids in the promotion.

- **Recruit volunteers.** Get folks to monitor the auction, help with setup and take down, and sort winning items for pickup.
IMPROVEMENTS

- Request extra space! Ask for more tables than you think you will need. Make sure there is ample space to place bid sheets with their items. Having the option to hang large items would also be helpful.

- Create separate numbers and bid sheets for duplicate items.

- For donated experiences, have a certificate with details for contacting the donor.

- Display a prominent sign with a timeline. Include details of when the auction ends, when winners can pick up items, how payment is accepted, and shipping items not picked up. Consider also adding the information to the conference program on Sched.

- Send a separate email recruiting auction volunteers instead of bundling it with an email about the items for auction.

- Align auction monitor shifts with the session schedule rather than setting an hourly schedule.

- Send donors a thank you note that can be used for tax purposes.

Interested in planning another silent auction, or have other fundraising ideas? Contact the MARAC Development Coordinator. My term ended on December 31, 2022, but I am happy to share my experience with anyone who is interested (kiddm@vcu.edu).

CRAFTERS AND AUCTION MONITORS

Mary Atwell
Danna Bell**
Sharmila Bhatia
Diane Bockrath**
Marisa Bourgoin
Melissa Davis**
Lynn Eaton*
Jen Eidson**
Allison Fischbach
Margaret Garnett
Lisa Gensel*
Jessica Johnson**
Kathryn Kramer
Tara Maharjan*
Mary Mannix
Nancy Melley*
Rebecca Johnson Melvin
Amanda Menjivar**
Valerie A. Metzler*
Jen Piegols
Margery Sly
Cheryl Stadel-Bevans**
Jim Stimpert
Amy Sullivan
Dillon Thomas*
Courtney Tkacz
Karen Wahl
Valerie Wingfield*
Sonya Yaco

*Auction monitor
**Auction monitor and crafter
COMMEMORATING CAMP MEADE: Honoring Our Local History Connections with the Fred M. Greguras Camp Meade Collection

By Heidi Abbey Moyer and Eleanor E. Parrey
Archives and Special Collections, Madlyn L. Hanes Library, Penn State Harrisburg, The Pennsylvania State University Libraries

“Once history holds your hand, it never lets go. But it has an anxious grip and takes you places you couldn’t expect.” —Lynne Tillman

INTRODUCTION
When hosting an outreach event as an archivist, you never know who you will encounter and what lasting impact that personal connection may have upon your professional life. During the summer of 2017, I had a serendipitous meeting with several community members that has led my archival career down a very unexpected path. I was invited in June that year to speak about the history of Penn State Harrisburg during the annual meeting of the Highspire Historical Society, which is located just minutes from the campus where I have worked for over sixteen years. During the event, two local historians asked me if I might be interested in talking to their friend, a collector who has spent many years amassing archival materials about a late-nineteenth century military camp known as “Camp Meade.” The camp, they told me, was established during the Spanish-American War of 1898, and occupied the land that was once the headquarters of the now-decommissioned Olmsted Air Force Base and known today as Penn State Harrisburg.

In my role as Archivist and Humanities Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections in the Madlyn L. Hanes Library, I became familiar with some Camp Meade history while completing research for my book, Penn State Harrisburg. Although I knew that the camp was important to the pre-history of the college, I was by no means an expert on the topic. Little did I know that this would soon change dramatically. I jumped at the opportunity to learn about and perhaps even acquire a unique military history collection that would enhance our archival resources for Middletown, Pa., and for the surrounding communities of Highspire, Lower Swatara Township, and Steelton, Pa. I also thought that it could complement our repository’s growing photography collections and, most important, highlight the lasting impact that the U.S. military and the Spanish-American War of 1898 has had upon the southcentral region of Pennsylvania.

1. Lynne Tillman, The Complete Madame Realism and Other Stories (South Pasadena, CA: Semiotext(e), 2016) 114.
A month after my local speaking engagement, in July 2017, I had the chance to meet firsthand with the collector, Mr. Fred M. Greguras, a U.S. Marine Corps and Vietnam Veteran, who is also an attorney, Marine historian, and expert on the Spanish-American War Camps of 1898-1899. Mr. Greguras visited Penn State Harrisburg during one of his periodic trips from California. After our brief meeting, he offered to donate his modestly sized but remarkable collection of materials that focus upon the Spanish-American War of 1898 and Camp Meade in particular. We negotiated the receipt of his gift for nearly a year, after which Mr. Greguras completed a donor agreement with the Pennsylvania State University Libraries. Archives and Special Collections at Penn State Harrisburg officially acquired the Fred M. Greguras Camp Meade Collection (hereafter, Camp Meade Collection) in July 2018. It is the tenth collection that has been added to the college’s repository since it was formally established in 2010.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

Before the archives could even begin to work on the arrangement and description of the Camp Meade Collection, I knew that first it would be critical to gather in-depth knowledge about the complex cultural, political, and social climate of the era in the United States, Latin America, Spain, and worldwide that led up to the Spanish-American War of 1898. Over the course of several hundred years, Spain had been amassing a vast colonial empire. But by the early decades of the 19th century, most Latin American countries such as Bolivia, Columbia, and Venezuela, and countries in Central America had already won their freedom from Spanish rule in the Latin American Wars of Independence. The exceptions to this were the Spanish territories of Cuba, Guam, the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Island chains of the Caroline, Mariana, and Marshall Islands. People in many of these countries, particularly those who fought during the Cuban War of Independence (1895-1898), participated in various revolutionary insurrections, and were treated inhumanely during their fight for independence. In fact, by 1898, over 400,000 Cubans died when one-third of the country’s population had been forcibly sent by Spanish military leaders into concentration camps. During the 1890s, political tension between the U.S. and Spain escalated in part due to highly sensationalized reports of Cuban political and social unrest in popular American media. Although U.S. Presidents Grover Cleveland and William McKinley both declared political neutrality, American sentiments about the Spanish empire changed over time and were heavily influenced by news and information reported in rival newspapers of the day, especially the New York Journal owned by William Randolph Hearst and the New York World published by Joseph Pulitzer. The unscrupulous practice of driving up American readership and profits, combined with unethical reporting, became known as “yellow journalism.” This term was based upon American cartoonist Richard F. Outcault’s “Yellow Kid,” a comic strip character that symbolized the plight of the poor and that appeared in both Heart’s and Pulitzer’s newspapers.

By March 1897 President William McKinley was inaugurated as the U.S. President, but political turmoil in Cuba continued to rise. Just over one year into McKinley’s first term as President, on April 21, 1898, he declared war on Spain. This followed the mysterious explosion (later determined to be an internal event for which Spain was not culpable) and sinking of the U.S.S Maine in Havana Harbor, Cuba, on February 15, 1898. Over 260 U.S. Navy sailors died because of the accident, which prompted the battle cry “Remember the Maine!” and subsequently roused American sympathies for Cuban independence and outrage against the tyrannical Spanish monarchy. This further encouraged many Americans to volunteer in support of the war effort.

Although the war lasted for just 110 days, it officially concluded when representatives from the U.S. and Spain signed a peace treaty, the Treaty of Paris, on December 10, 1898. The treaty established the independence of Cuba, ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the U.S., and allowed the U.S. to purchase the Philippine Islands from Spain for $20 million. While most soldiers never experienced any live combat, the Spanish-
American War of 1898 ultimately took 3,000 American lives, 90% of which were from infectious diseases such as dysentery, typhoid, and yellow fever. Given the short duration of the war and limited human casualties, U.S. Secretary of State, John Hay, infamously described it as the “splendid little war.” It is quite difficult to imagine any war being given this label today, but it certainly catapulted America into the role of a global power with a lasting influence upon domestic and foreign relations into the 21st century.

BRIEF HISTORY OF CAMP MEADE

Despite the short duration of the war, there were mustering in and out camps and training camps for volunteers in every state across the country. Within Pennsylvania, there were six camps: Camp Conewago (Conewago, Pa.), Camp Hastings (Mount Gretna, Pa.), Camp Hawkins (Washington, Pa.), Camp Pfeiffer (New Oxford, Pa.), Camp Snyder (Gettysburg), and Camp Meade (Middletown, Pa.). Located in Lower Swatara Township, Dauphin County, Camp Meade was situated in an area that covered approximately three-square miles north of the Susquehanna River and was named in honor of General George Gordon Meade (1815-1872). Meade was Major General of the Union Army during one of the Civil War’s most famous engagements, the Battle of Gettysburg. Camp Meade was established on August 14, 1898, when two companies of the Second U.S. Volunteer Engineers arrived in Middletown by way of Fort Sheridan, Illinois, to formally lay out the camp. It was created when troops in the Second Army Corps, a unit of the United States Army, were moved north due to a typhoid fever epidemic at Camp Alger in Dunn Loring, near Falls Church, Virginia. Camp Meade became the second camp location for the Second Army Corps and was commanded by Major General William W. Graham. Interestingly, just two days before troops were transferring from Camp Alger to Camp Meade, Spain agreed to an armistice on August 12, 1898, effectively ending the war.

Nevertheless, plans for establishing Camp Meade moved ahead when the U.S. government leased over 700 acres of farmland owned by two local prominent farmers and businessmen, Colonel James Young (1820-1895), and his heirs, as well as George W. Cumbler (1841-1904). The first troops to arrive at Camp Meade from Camp Alger were from the 9th Ohio, a battalion of Black soldiers. At various times, there were more than 30,000 men occupying the camp. On August 27, 1898, U.S. President William McKinley and the First Lady visited the camp, and 18,000 troops provided them with a marching review. Other political dignitaries also came to Camp Meade in the early fall of 1898. As reported in the New York Times, on September 9, 1898, the U.S. Secretary of War, Russell A. Alger, and Major General William Rufus Shafter visited Camp Meade. They were delighted by the sanitary conditions of the camp as well as treated to a “Grand Review,” a gathering of the entire Second Army Corps’ 20,000 soldiers who marched before them.

Especially relevant to the pre-history of Penn State Harrisburg, the main camp occupied 140 acres, western portions of which held the headquarters for the Second Army Corps and encampments for the 16th Pennsylvania (2nd Brigade) and the 18th Pennsylvania (1st Brigade). Pennsylvania troops were located on the same land now occupied by several academic and administrative buildings, including the Olmsted Building and the Madlyn L. Hanes Library, at Penn State Harrisburg.

Although Camp Meade was situated near the Pennsylvania Railroad, which provided critical transportation for essential food, military supplies, and access to recreation in the capital city of Harrisburg, it was also located conveniently close to the Susquehanna River so that soldiers could routinely bathe. Under General Graham’s strict command, potable drinking water was maintained and replenished using wells and springs readily available onsite. Despite amenable conditions at Camp Meade, disease still spread among soldiers who brought typhoid with them from other camps.

The initial closing process for Camp Meade began on November 17, 1898. However, it was reopened several times. In mid-March 1899, it was used as a mustering out camp for four regiments.

of U.S. Volunteers in May and June 1899. Later that year, from July through November 1899, Camp Meade was put back into operation for assembling four new regiments including the 27th, 28th, 41st, and 47th U.S. Volunteers who were organized in support of the Philippine-American War (1899-1902). When the 41st Infantry of the U.S. Volunteers left Camp Meade on November 18, 1899, its use as a military camp officially came to an end.

**PROCESSING THE CAMP MEADE COLLECTION**

Since receipt of the collection in July 2018, only a minimal level of processing and a basic inventory were completed. During 2018 and 2019, I supervised several part-time archives assistants and an archives graduate student intern with developing a processing plan and an initial finding aid. But the variety of materials in the collection and subject matter—American military history—proved to be an ongoing challenge for everyone and made arrangement and description even more difficult for two years.

Limited staffing capacity, time, and many different hurdles presented by the COVID-19 pandemic delayed additional progress with organizing the Camp Meade Collection. When the archives was closed to the public during the worst months of the pandemic in 2020-2021, Eleanor Parrey, the Archives Administrative Assistant, took full advantage of the uninterrupted hours to research the Spanish-American War and photograph series. One item is a rare piece of trench art that is carved into a functional ashtray from a found object; it was made by an unknown Second Army Corps soldier and is inscribed with the words “CAMP MEADE PA 1899.” The reverse side of the object is marked with a five-pointed star and what appears to be a stylized depiction of the insignia of the U.S. Army Adjutant General Corps. It also features a thumb-sized depression, which illustrates its possible use as a worry stone. Aside from numerous, remarkable photographs of the camp captured by J. D. Givens, other rare objects in the collection include stereoscopic views/stereograph cards of Camp Meade by J. F. Jarvis, and a silver-plated commemorative pitcher given by the non-commissioned officers of Company E, 14th Regiment to Captain H. D. Fowler, Camp Meade.

**CONCLUSION**

Capturing a unique part of 19th-century American military history, the Fred M. Greguras Camp Meade Collection is forever intrinsically linked to the college campus and community at Penn State Harrisburg and southcentral Pennsylvania. Archives and Special Collections is honored to steward and preserve Mr. Greguras’ collection and commemorate the sacrifices and service of soldiers who participated in the war effort and who were stationed at Camp Meade. Serendipitously and in perfect complement to the publication of the completed archival finding aid, the year 2023 also marks the 125th anniversary of the Spanish-American War of 1898 and the formation of Camp Meade in Middletown, Pa. Accordingly, a special exhibition, “Commemorating Camp Meade,” featuring many of the original photographs and ephemera featured in this article, are on display for the first time in the Madlyn L. Hanes Library at Penn State Harrisburg. The archival exhibition will be available for viewing throughout 2023 whenever the library is open to the public and can also be experienced online from the archives’ Flickr site.
AS A MEMBER OF MARAC, I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE JOAN ECHTENKAMP KLEIN TRAVEL AWARD, WHICH HELPED ME TO ATTEND THE FALL 2022 MEETING IN COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND.

This experience enabled me to learn more about the organization and increased my knowledge of digitization, metadata, and oral histories, as presented by my peers. The opportunity to visit the University of Maryland’s College Park Campus, the birthplace of MARAC, was a highlight, allowing me to learn about the history of the organization and engage with members in planning for the future.

My immediate impression of MARAC was the wide range of workshops and sessions that focused on digitization and digital collections. I selected workshops and sessions designed to enhance my knowledge about the work I perform while seeking out knowledge about archival practices that indirectly influence my daily tasks.

Fifty years ago in the Katherine Anne Porter Room on the College Park Campus when MARAC was formed, I suspect no one might have envisioned the role digitization would play in archives. I saw the shared challenges and successes in my work as Pamela McClanahan and Alexandria Trim of the University of Maryland discussed how they support access to archival materials in “Setting Up In-House and Vendor Digitization Programs.” This focus on developing practical archival knowledge to expand access resonated with me during “Through the Years: MARAC and the Society of American Archivists.” I admire the vision of the individuals who came together fifty years ago to create a place where we could come together to grow and learn as we preserve access to the past.

Additionally, I discovered the threads and connections between different elements of archival work throughout the conference. Each of the three plenary sessions increased my awareness of how we serve to preserve the memory of the past for our communities. I expanded my knowledge of digitization and archival project management in several informative sessions. Ariel Segal from the Library of Congress moderated “Moving Beyond Text Digitization in Archives Using Both Human and Technological Resources,” where I learned more about crowdsourcing, transcription, and the creation of metadata. In “From Analog to New Access: Preserving and Sharing Community Oral History Collections,” I learned about the music scene in Baltimore, explored interviews with Black residents in Towson, Maryland, and heard about efforts to preserve these audio-visual materials while expanding access.

Networking played a role in the success of the meeting for me, as I am new to Penn State University and the academic environment. I enjoyed forging and enhancing bonds of friendship with my colleagues. The spontaneity in the “Meet & Greet” and the continental breakfasts helped me to make professional connections. This served as my first in-person conference, and I found connecting with people easier than in the virtual realm.

Overall, attending MARAC’s 50th anniversary conference enabled me to grow my professional skills, learn more about the organization’s history, and connect with my peers and colleagues. I was able to broaden my perspectives on digitization, metadata, and oral histories, which will enhance my work at Penn State University. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities like the Klein Travel Award because the value it offers members for continuing education and fellowship is exceptionally rewarding. Receiving this award will inspire me to give back to MARAC as I serve the profession and my community. Thank you for selecting me for this wonderful opportunity.

Warren Lambert is a 2022 recipient of the Joan Echtenkamp Klein Meeting and Travel Award.
CONTINUING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT TO HOLDING MEETINGS IN A VARIETY OF FORMATS, MARAC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE SPRING 2023 MEETING WILL BE A VIRTUAL ONE.

After meeting in College Park to celebrate MARAC’s 50th Anniversary, we are returning online to host our 2nd ever Virtual Meeting on April 26–28, 2023. Our first virtual meeting was a rousing success with over 700 registered participants, many from outside the MARAC region, and a few from outside the US. We are hoping to repeat that impressive number.

The theme of the conference, “Keeping Archives Relevant in the Digital Age,” seems especially appropriate after several years of the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the importance of a robust online presence while also significantly changing our work situations. Many of us continue to deal with working in hybrid situations, or hybrid organizations, even when we are back in the office full-time. Patrons may have even higher expectations for online material accessibility after remote services have grown in so many fields over the past few years. How do we meet expectations with small staff numbers, multiple responsibilities and stretched budgets? Join us for several half-days of Zoom sessions to explore just such questions and the solutions your colleagues have implemented.

The plenary address will be delivered on April 26 by Franklin Vagnone and Deborah Ryan, self-described museum anarchists. Vagnone and Ryan co-authored The Anarchist’s Guide to Historic House Museums, a book outlining innovative concepts to assist cultural sites in expanding audiences and rethinking the visitor experience. There will also be virtual tours of a variety of institutions in the MARAC region and virtual poster sessions. Whatever your interests, we hope you will join us and find sessions to enhance your daily work, inspire collaboration and deliver insight for positive change.

Very affordable registration fees are a final benefit of online conferences. Registration for this meeting will be only $25 for MARAC members and $50 for non-members. MARAC encourages students to attend at no cost. There will also be an option for members to support emerging archivists engage in professional development. For more information, visit the conference webpage.

REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE 2023 MARAC ELECTIONS!
SEEKING VIRTUAL TOURS FOR SPRING VIRTUAL MEETING!

The Virtual Tours Subcommittee of the Virtual Arrangements Committee for the Spring 2023 MARAC Virtual Conference is seeking volunteers to create virtual tour videos to be featured for the Spring Virtual Meeting April 26–28, 2023.

Ideally, all Caucuses will have at least one tour to represent the state or district. Videos should be roughly 5 to 10 minutes in length and feature a highlight of physical or digital collections or spaces. It can discuss how a problem was solved, or approaches to access in the current era. For many, tours are fun highlights of in-person conferences. While the virtual lacks “IRL” opportunities for experiencing awesome spaces, these tours offer an opportunity to be free of geographical constraints. So let’s show off our spatial diversity!

You can find examples of virtual tours on the MARAC YouTube channel, but participants can expand the possibilities as they see fit.

The opportunity—but not a requirement—to be available for a live Q&A session about the tours during the conference is planned. Please contact John Beekman at jbeekman@jclibrary.org for more information.

Thanks,
Virtual Tours Subcommittee,
Spring 2023 VAC

John Beekman
Christie Lutz
Laura Melbourne
New Members

September 2022

Maurita Balock ................................................................. Library of Congress
Abigail Bell ................................................................. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Britney Bibeault ............................................................. University of Maryland
Katie Bushman ............................................................. LAC Federal
Lisa Carney ................................................................. University of Maryland
Rikki Chesley .............................................................. Franklin County Pennsylvania Archives
Caroline Collins .......................................................... Library of Virginia
Patricia Cossard .......................................................... University of Maryland, College Park
Camille DiMarco .......................................................... Maryland State Archives
Diana Dymond ............................................................ Penn West University; East Stroudsburg University
Briana Etzweiler ........................................................... Franklin County Pennsylvania Archives
Brandi Fialek ............................................................... U.S. Naval Institute
Hollis Gentry Brown ..................................................... Smithsonian Libraries and Archives
Frances Golden ............................................................. Franklin County Pennsylvania Archives
Samuel Hahn .............................................................. Gallaudet University Library Deaf Collections & Archives
Emily Hegranes ........................................................... U.S. Naval Institute
Benjamin Henry ........................................................... University of Maryland College Park
Conal Huetter .............................................................. Heritage Frederick
Brandon Jackson ........................................................ Institute for Advanced Study
Bridget Jamison .......................................................... University of Maryland
Autumn Kalikin ............................................................. DC History Center
Hayden Kramer ............................................................ University of Maryland
Zelda MacFarland ........................................................ University of Arizona
Julie McVey ................................................................. National Geographic Society
Trenton Morgan ............................................................ Franklin County Pennsylvania Archives
Karina Nelson .............................................................. The David C. Driskell Center, The University of Maryland
Lindsay Oliver ............................................................. University of Maryland
Mark Plaushin .............................................................. NEMDAA
Gabrielle Puglisi ........................................................... University of Maryland
C. Kimmi Ramnine ........................................................ DC History Center
Acadia Roher ............................................................... Self-Employed
Jose Rosado ............................................................... Office of the Commissioner, Major League Baseball
Anastasia Rousseau ........................................................... Arcadia University
Kathleen Sabogal ........................................................... Carnegie Hall
Christopher Schini ........................................................ Maryland State Archives
Cecilia Scott ............................................................... Franklin County Pennsylvania Archives
Danielle Smith ............................................................. Maryland State Archives
Amanda Sorensen ........................................................ University of Maryland
Page Starr ................................................................. 1DSVA
Lisa Thacker-Falla ........................................................ Prince William Public Libraries
Heather Wade ............................................................. Franklin County Pennsylvania Archives
Anne Walkenhorst ........................................................ Organ Historical Society
Xavier Walker ............................................................. Inheritance Baltimore - Johns Hopkins University
October 2022

Paige Watson ................................................................. Gallaudet University
Vivica Williams ............................................................... archSCAN, LLC

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Vivica Williams ............................................................... archSCAN, LLC
# Treasurer's Report

**FISCAL YEAR 2023 • 1ST QUARTER • JULY 1–SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

## Account Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Opening</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
<th>Closing</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$4,458.50</td>
<td>($600.00)</td>
<td>$147,225.51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard Bonds</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$52,647.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$44,939.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Summary - First Quarter FY 2023

- Opening Balance: $240,953.56
- Total Income: $95,093.62
- Total Expenses: ($16,662.99)
- Closing Balance: $319,384.19

## Restricted Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Opening</th>
<th>New Gifts</th>
<th>Spending</th>
<th>Closing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PNC Savings</td>
<td>$16,946.00</td>
<td>$1,735.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$18,681.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard Bonds</td>
<td>$119,216.01</td>
<td>$1,083.50</td>
<td>($600.00)</td>
<td>$119,699.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$143,367.01</td>
<td>$4,458.50</td>
<td>($600.00)</td>
<td>$147,225.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**COVER**


**PAGE 5**

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**PAGES 12 & 13**

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Volunteers, Tara Maharjan and Diane Bockrath, are ready to assist anyone with questions about the auction. Courtesy of Margaret Kidd.*

Cheryl Stadel-Bevans and John LeGloahec show the quilt created by Marisa Bourgoin and Cheryl. Each square represents a different MARAC state. Courtesy of Margaret Kidd.

Jessica Crouch wrapped in the afghan she won. Courtesy of Margaret Kidd.

A selection of some of the whimsical knit and crocheted items auction. Courtesy of Margaret Kidd.

**PAGE 18**

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**PAGE 20**

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