



SOCIETY OF
American
Archivists

PLASC *Roundtable*

A place for archival professionals in public library settings

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Our Mission

The Public Library Archives/Special Collections Roundtable (PLASC) serves to encourage advocacy for and education about archival, manuscript, local history, genealogy, and other historic and special collections within public libraries of all sizes. The Roundtable provides an arena for discussion and dissemination of best practices of the archival, library, museum and history fields; and works to support the informational, historical, and cultural interests which converge in public library archives

Meet Our People: Steering Committee 2011-2012



Kerrie Cotton Williams, Chair, Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, Atlanta, Georgia



Sharon Pullen, Webmaster, Historic Documents Library, Suffolk County, New York



Adrienne Pruitt, Secretary, Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Valerie Wingfield, At Large Member, New York Public Library, New York



Heather Kramer, At Large Member, Montgomery County Memorial Library, Conroe, Texas

Happy 100th Birthday to the Archives at Queens Library!



The Archives at Queens Library is about to reach its 100th birthday. The Archives Division (formerly names the Long Island Division) collects material documenting the historical, physical, and cultural changes in the four counties that make up New York's Long Island: Queens, Kings (Brooklyn), Nassau, and Suffolk. The collection includes photographs, manuscripts, genealogies, business records, newspapers, and much more.

The Division also has a sizable collection of Sanborn and E. Belcher Hyde maps. The maps were created to show what is on a piece of property. They are published for the fire industry, real estate industry, and government for multiple reasons. Since a fire in the local Department of Buildings destroyed many of their records, the Division's freely accessible documents are consulted frequently.

Queens Library's Archives Division will publish a timeline history, a traveling exhibit for the various bran libraries, programs and events, and a staff day where staff are able to learn more in-depth information about the Archives Division's resources.

For more information about 100th Birthday activities please contact Joanne King, Associate Director—Communications, www.queenslibrary.org

To celebrate the centennial

COUNTDOWN TO THE RELEASE OF THE 1940 CENSUS The 1940 United States Census will be released on April 2, 2012 at 9am on the National Archives website. Also on the website are forms, FAQs, and sources for reference. View more at www.archives.gov/research/census/1940



Spotlight On: Queens Memory Project

Queens Library, in conjunction with Queens College, has launched the Queens Memory Project. The Queens Memory Project seeks to collect and preserve the oral histories of people who live and work in Queens County, a la StoryCorps. Snippets of the interviews are available online, while the full interviews will be made available in Queens Library's Archives Division. Online, the stories are enhanced with photos, maps, and ephemera from the Archives Division. For example, if someone speaks of the 1964 World's Fair, they might also add photos or images of tickets, programs or other memorabilia from the fair.

The first phase of project focused on the community of Flushing. Initial funding for the project came from Metropolitan New York Library Council.

To listen to some of Queens memories visit www.queensmemoryproject.org.



Exhibits

“Lafayette Square: Then and Now” Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

In the heart of downtown Buffalo, New York, The Grosvenor Room Special Collections Department & Rare Book Room of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library strives to preserve and celebrate local cultural heritage in our collections, programs, and exhibits.

The current display, “Lafayette Square: Then and Now”, opened in May 2011 and has enthralled many visitors. The exhibit is an exploration of the architectural history of a central public square in downtown Buffalo and features photographs, postcards, maps, & other ephemera of the Square, surrounding buildings, and the original Central Library. Theatres, department stores, a grand hotel, elegant office buildings, restaurants, and shops are all noticeable.

Inspired by and created to coincide with the national Preservation Conference held in Buffalo in October 2011, the exhibit continues the legacy of Lafayette Square as the center for commerce, entertainment, and civic gatherings. Today it remains the heart of Buffalo.

The exhibit was uniquely created combining material from the local history collections, including scrapbook newspaper articles, magazine ads and theater programs with selections from the Rare Book Room. The glimpse into Buffalo’s architectural past and present has sent many local visitors down memory lane and wowed our younger patrons. Many are astounded to see the remarkable buildings of a bygone era,

including the previous gothic style of Buffalo Public Library.

A wooded park in the 1860s, Lafayette Square has evolved over the years into a busy urban center. It has been the site for welcoming visiting dignitaries as well as rallies, demonstrations and more recently, popular summer concerts. The site has also played host to many past presidents including President-elect Abraham Lincoln spoke in 1861. Martin Van Buren, 8th President of the U.S., in 1848, and two-time president and former Buffalo mayor, Grover Cleveland in 1884. During his visit, Cleveland helped lay the cornerstone of the Square’s Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

Lafayette Square: Then and Now is on display at the Central Buffalo & Erie County Public Library through January 29, 2012. The exhibit is free and open to the public.



The Grosvenor Room is the premiere genealogical destination in Western New York and is home to a wealth of information on all things Buffalo and Erie County. The collections include vital and related records, published genealogies, maps & atlases, scrapbooks, newspapers, and ephemera material. The department also has music resources, home to one of the oldest and most distinguished collections of scores, sheet music, audio, and books relating to music in North America.

The Rare Book Room contains over 40,000 volumes of books and thousands of non-book items including artwork, photographs, newspapers, maps, and posters. Notable holdings include the first four Shakespeare folios, Mark Twain’s manuscript of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and a complete set of Audobon’s *Birds of America*. The Rare Book Room also contains the *Milestones of Science*, Americana, Anti-Slavery literature, modern fine printing, miniatures, Shaker literature, children’s books, and Western New York local history.

For more information contact Susan Cutrona, Reference Librarian, Grosvenor Room, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, cutronas@buffalolib.org or visit www.buffalolib.org.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY
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EST. FEBRUARY 2010

*Beyond
Borders*

2012 SAA ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 6-11 • SAN DIEGO, CA

DEADLINES:

Call for Service in SAA—
volunteer forms due **Janu-
ary 13, 2012**

Call for Proposals for Stu-
dent Paper and Poster
Presentations—**February
1, 2012**

Review details and forms at
www.archivists.org.

**Plan now
to attend
the Annual
Meeting in
San Diego
in 2012!**

Put Your News HERE!

Do you have a new collection, photo, logo, or exhibit you would like to share? Have a call for assistance from colleagues? Know of someone that recently received a promotion or moved to a new position?

Help our notes from the field section grow! Send your news our way so we include it in the newsletter and get the word out.

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Notes from the field

Jennifer Sharp, Project Archivist at Connecticut Historical Society, has been working in a contractual position with the Hartford History Center to complete the processing, arrangement, and description of the City and Town Clerk Archives. In November 2010, the City of Hartford officially transferred the records to the History Center. Dating to the 1600s, the collection is an extensive history of the capital

city of Connecticut. More records are anticipated. All records are open for research. Catalog records and an EAD finding aid will soon follow. To learn more visit the Hartford History Center website:
www.hhc.hplct.org

The **Leonia Public Library** will host an exhibit Facts about the Artifacts, 1835-1990 from December 2011-January 2012.

The exhibit will showcase a variety of artifacts that have been donated to the library over the years.

Also at Leonia, the Vreeland Papers, 1627-1896, are now open to the public. A 2006 gift of Annie Vreeland, the papers document several generations of the Vreeland family in New Jersey. For more information contact Harriet Burdock, Archivist, Leonia Public Library, www.leonia.bccls.org

Got a story idea, news or an article to share? Want to get involved with the newsletter? We'd love to hear from you! Contact Valerie (valeriewingfield@nypl.org) or Heather (heather.kramer@countylibrary.org)

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