

SOLO

Newsletter of the Solo Archivists Section, Society of American Archivists

Fall 2024

Letter from the Incoming Chair

Dear Solo Archivists Section Members,

It has been my pleasure to be a part of this committee for the past few years and I am grateful to serve as chair for 2024-2025. I had been a member for years before getting involved and I wish I had done it sooner. It's been so helpful and encouraging to hear the perspectives of archivists from different regions and work environments and I want to continue facilitating those great conversations over the next year. I have learned so much from this section over time: workflows and tools, policies, facilities, collections management, donor relations, reference, advocacy...the breadth of responsibilities can be overwhelming, and this section is here to support you!

I am impressed by the activities of this committee and by the membership of this group in general. While it is true that archives workers are helpful and knowledgeable, solo archivists exemplify this. Whether it's an insightful discussion thread or an engaged Q & A after an event or an interesting collection highlighted in the newsletter, I love the variety of our collections and institutions and the creative solutions to problems that members are so willing to share with others. This cooperation is the great strength of our group.

This year, we will continue the good work set up by the steering committee members recently - an informative newsletter that gives us a peek into where and how other solo archivists work, educational events that are geared toward practical guidance, and resources to build community and knowledge sharing within our ranks.

Thank you to Julie Yamashita for keeping us moving forward as chair this past year and to Rebecca Leung and Shaun Kirkpatrick as they depart the steering committee as well. They've each contributed their expertise and strengths and left us with a clear path to follow. I'm looking forward to seeing where it leads.

Hilary Swett
Archivist
Writer's Guild Foundation
hilaryswett@gmail.com



Letter from the Outgoing Chair

Dear Fellow Solo Archivists,

It was truly a pleasure to serve as Steering Committee Chair this year. We saw the finalizing our section name change, begun by my predecessor, Micaela Terronez. We also organized several events, activities, and the *SOLO* newsletter that engaged members in conversation with one another. It was wonderful getting to know the diversity of solo archivists while at the same time seeing their commonalities during our many events.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Steering Committee members (Hilary, Rebecca, Shaun, Alison, and Allison) for their hard work and advice. Our team did incredible work this year and I look forward to seeing what they will do in the coming year. A special big thank you to Rebecca Leung and Shaun Kirkpatrick for their contributions this year for our wonderful programming and expanded web resources. I'd like to wish the best of luck to Hilary Swett as she leads the committee next year.

I would also like to thank the section membership for their participation in our programming and other resources. While the steering committee helps to create the events and lists, they could not have done it without the input and assistance from members. Without you, there would be no speakers for our UnBoxed events, buddies on the Buddy List, articles in *SOLO*, and no "Essential Resources for Solo Archivists." Thank you for your continued support, and I hope that you find this section to be a comfortable community space for learning and growing.

Julie Yamashita
Lanterman House Museum and Archives
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In This Issue

Welcome, New SAS Leaders!

Kim Bradshaw, Vice-Chair / Chair Elect

Laura Jones, Regional Representative

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Highlights

Share what you've been up to with your fellow solo archivists!

Name

Allison Bundy

Position title

College Archivist & Digital Collections Librarian

Institution

Concordia College Moorhead

What kind of institution do you work at?

Academic Institution – Higher Education

What's the most interesting thing in your collection?

A copy of the Augsburg Confession printed in 1561 with a forward written by Philip Melancthon.

What's your major accomplishment in the last year?

My major accomplishment from this past year was completing a system migration as a solo archivist. Previously, the archives was using CuadraStar, an archival collection management software hosted by the company Lucidea. Due to the age of CuadraStar, I made the decision along with Lucidea to migrate to another of their newer products, ArchivEra. As a solo archivist, and as a relatively new archivist, it was a very big learning opportunity. There are things that I would do different were I to do another system migration. I would dedicate more time to investigating the demo site and demo collections and cleaning up metadata issues prior to migration. I would understand that it will take longer than I expect even with all of my ambitions. Despite all of that though, I am incredibly proud of having accomplished, relatively smoothly, a system migration by myself.

Sidebar

[Concordia College Moorhead Archives](#)

Follow this link to explore the new public portal for the Concordia College Archives.

SOLO

Updates

Connect 1:1 With Solo Archivists Via the Buddy List

As solo archivists, we often have questions or seek advice from others on challenges and tasks related to managing our archives. The SAA Solo Archivists Section listserv is a great resource for getting a range of suggestions to our inquiries, but sometimes you want to have a more in-depth discussion. The Solo Archivists Section Buddy List Directory is another available resource that can help facilitate those connections.

The Buddy List launched in December 2023 based on feedback from section members. Simply put, you opt-in to adding your contact information and archiving interests to a shared database of other solo archivists who are interested in sharing knowledge. For more information, and the link to submit your contact info to the database, check out section page: [Solo Archivist Buddy List Directory](#)

The SAS Steering Committee is always looking for ways to help solo archivists feel less isolated. If you have any suggestions, or feedback on the Buddy List Directory, please email us at soloarchivists.saa@gmail.com.

Happy Networking!

Alison Quirion

Solo Archivists Section Regional Representative, 2023-2025



You Never Know Who Will Come Through Your Door!

By Julie Yamashita | Archivist, Lanterman House Museum and Archives

Never underestimate the power of your collection. You may think that it is only of interest to a niche group of scholars and historians.

I am the archivist at the Lanterman House, a historic house museum and archives in La Cañada Flintridge, California. To orient you, we are just down the road from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and a few miles from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The two primary focuses of our collection are the Lanterman family, one of the founding families of La Cañada, as well as Crescenta-Cañada area history. There is one collection that is of particular significance to those outside of the local area, the Frank D. Lanterman Political Papers, which document the career of California State Assemblyman Frank Lanterman. He is known for his important mental health, water rights, and transportation legislation.

Very few people know that Frank Lanterman was responsible for California passing the country's first air regulations for vehicles. But one day, I received an email from a freelance writer, Brett Berk, who was searching for information on this story for an article he was writing for Road & Track magazine. Road & Track! How cool is that! I remembered seeing the magazine with all the neat cars laying around our house as a kid.

Brett had come on a docent-led tour of the Lanterman House and was inspired by the family's early love of the automobile (they already had a three-car garage in 1915) and Frank Lanterman's interest in clean air legislation. He came to our archives and spent two days of intensive research, looking at Frank Lanterman's transportation and air regulation files. Brett also interviewed me about Frank's family history and their interest in the healing power of fresh air.

A month later, I received a message from the editor from Road & Track. They were asking follow-up questions and were getting ready to publish! We also scanned several images from our photograph collection that had never been requested before. Fast forward to June 2024, and in the special California issue of Road & Track, there's Brett's article with quotes from me and photos from our archive! Our tiny archive was getting national exposure in a way we had never expected!



Image courtesy of the Lanterman House Archives.

Solo Archivists Section Steering Committee

2024–2025

Hilary Swett	Chair / Web Liaison	Writers Guild Foundation
Kim Bradshaw	Vice Chair / Chair-Elect	Art Museum of the University of Memphis
Laura Jones	Regional Representative	Grand County Historical Association
Alison Quirion	Events Coordinator	Sega of America, Inc.
Allison Bundy	Newsletter Editor	Concordia College Moorhead

Get in Touch!

soloarchivists.saa@gmail.com

Visit Us Online!

archivists.org/groups/lone-arrangers-section

solo archivist

n. ~ an individual who is the only staff member

or the only formally trained archivist working in an archives

Dictionary of Archives Terminology, s.v. “solo archivist,” accessed September 1, 2023,
dictionary.archivists.org/entry/solo-archivist.html.



SOLO, newsletter of the Solo Archivists Section, is published twice each year in the spring and fall. Deadlines for contributions are **January 15** (spring issue) and **July 15** (fall issue). Articles, photos, and announcements of interest to the community of solo archivists should be submitted to the SAS newsletter editor at soloarchivists.saa@gmail.com.