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CAA News

Fall 2016

Capital Area Archivists
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Capital Region Archives Dinner
- 1 Passport Day in Schoharie County
- 2 DHPSNY Begins Serving New York State's Libraries and Archives
- 3 News from Schenectady Historical Society, Passport Day con't, and Workshop Announcements

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Capital Region Archives Dinner, October 5th, Shaker Ridge Country Club

The Capital Area Archivists is delighted to invite you to the 21st annual Capital Region Archives Dinner held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 5:30 - 9:00 at the Shaker Ridge Country Club.

For twenty-one years, the Capital Region Archives Dinner has celebrated the archival heritage of Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington counties. In addition to awards, we are delighted to be joined by keynote speaker Lisa Seymour, New York State Museum, who will be presenting a talk on the regional Shaker community in "Small Beginnings: The Extraordinary Society of Shakers."

The dinner is organized by the Capital Area Archivists (CAA) and

Please see *Archives Dinner* on page 2

Schoharie County Passport Day

The Schoharie County Clerk's Office will be hosting a **Passport Day on Saturday, October 29th 9AM - 12PM.**

It will be held at the Schoharie County Clerk's office located at 284 Main Street, Schoharie, NY 12157.

Avoid the stress of getting your passport in time for a trip! Allow time for any problems to be settled! Passport processing center are typically busier towards the winter months - avoid the wait!

Bring with you a copy of your birth certificate with a raised seal and both parents listed and a photo ID such as a driver's license.

Please see *Passport Day* on page 3

DHPSNY BEGINS SERVING NEW YORK STATE'S LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) is a statewide program established to support the vast network of non-government, unique library and archival repositories that safeguard New York's historical records. DHPSNY's website launched in early September (<http://dhpsny.org>), and now qualifying New York organizations can apply for free training and services, including archival needs assessments, preservation and conservation surveys, and strategic planning guidance. Applications are available, and recipients of DHPSNY's services will be selected by a competitive review process led by an advisory committee of library, archives, and conservation professionals.

"Now qualifying New York organizations can apply for free training and services, including archival needs assessments, preservation and conservation surveys, and strategic planning guidance."

DHPSNY also offers free education programs, including a series of webinars and a number of one-on-one workshops delivered to locations throughout the state. The website will soon feature more resources to encourage interaction between organizations, including a message board and comprehensive online directory of New York's libraries and archives.

DHPSNY is a collaboration between two long-running New York programs dedicated to service and support for archival and library research collections throughout the state: the New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program and the New York State Library Conservation/Preservation Program. DHPSNY is also supported by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, and New York State Education Department.

If you're interested in doing a program with the **Student Chapter of SAA at the University at Albany**, please reach out to them at informationstudiessa@gmail.com.

They're always looking for presentations on grant writing, the work in non-traditional archives settings, and advice on getting professional jobs.

Archives Dinner from page 1

the Capital Region Archives Dinner Committee.

Join us for networking and good conversation among archivists, records management professionals, and historians. We hope to see you there!

Website: <http://www.capitalarchivist.org/>.

NYS Archives Partnership Trust Events

2016 Empire State Archives and History Award

Please join the Archives Partnership Trust for a fascinating evening with American author, biographer, historian, and Pulitzer Prize-winner **Ron Chernow** and Nationally prominent Lincoln Scholar **Harold Holzer** as they talk about Mr. Chernow's highly productive career, including his landmark biography Alexander Hamilton, a *New York Times* Bestseller and the inspiration for the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*!

Chancellors Hall, State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY. Tickets are now on sale - [register today!](#)

Free and Independent States: The History of the New York State Constitution magazine speaker series, Thursday, November 10, 5:30 p.m.

The New York Archives Magazine and The League of Women Voters of NYS Education Foundation present Free and Independent States: The History of the New York State Constitution, Thursday, November 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Cultural Education Center. This discussion of the history of the New York State Constitution, its creation, adoption and changes will be moderated by Susan Arbetter, Director of News and Public Affairs at WCNY and host of The Capitol Pressroom. Panelists are Gerald Benjamin, Associate Vice President for Regional Engagement and Director of the Benjamin Center for Public Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz and Peter Galie, professor emeritus of political science at Canisius College in Buffalo.

This event is free though interested parties are asked to reserve their place by calling (518) 473-7091 or emailing at aptrust@nysed.gov.

The Path to Statehood exhibit, November 8-27

Founding documents of the Empire State will be displayed for a limited time from November 8th to the 27th at the New York State Museum (Cultural Education Center).

Passport Day from page 1

Personal checks or money orders only.

Photos can taken at the office!

Feel free to call with any questions: 518-295-8316.

Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core Workshop

Please join us at a FREE workshop for classroom teachers; school, public and academic librarians; public historians; museum, archive and historic site staff; and representatives from public television, performing arts and other cultural organizations. The goal is to share our resources and effectively support learning in and out of the classroom.

Workshops will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 3:30 PM. Refreshments and lunch are included. For more information and to register: <http://www.manyonline.org/uncommon-approaches> or call 518-273-3400.

November 15, 2016 at the New York State Museum, Albany

- Jonathan Boulware, South Street Seaport Museum
- Patrick Murphy, The Wild Center
- Andy Kitzmann, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- Samantha Saladino, Shaker Heritage Society, Cindy Dickinson, Hancock Shaker Village, Dr. Jennifer Dorsey, Siena College
- Mia Nagawieki, New York Historical Society

University at Albany completes 2014-2016 CLIR Grant

By Melissa McMullen, Project Archivist, University at Albany.

The University at Albany's M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives recently finished a multi-year grant from the Council on Library Resources' (CLIR) Cataloging Hidden Collections program in April 2016. The selected collections were chosen based on the fact that they were nationally significant, were unprocessed, and have considerable value for researching the social and political movement addressing the death penalty in America. The objective of the grant was to enhance access for scholars and promote the use of the collections. Scholars, teachers, students, and the general public benefit from the completion of the project objectives because they can easily access and search for documents to interpret capital punishment's history. The collections have been fully arranged and described within folder-level EAD finding aids. The ten collections include:

- David C. Baldus Papers
- Leigh Bienen Papers
- Abraham Bonowitz Papers
- Capital Defender Office Records
- Capital Jury Project Records
- Michael A. Mello Papers
- Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation Records
- National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Records
- Bill Pelke Papers (Journey of Hope Records)
- Victor Streib Papers

Con't on page 5

Continued from page 4

All the NDPA finding aids can be found at:

<http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/eresources/static/ndpa.html>

The collections selected to be processed under the CLIR grant presented several challenges that called for a strategic approach to processing. An MPLP approach was not the case with several of the collections in their current state, so finding a golden minimum for each was the key to the success of the project. The records of the Capital Jury Project held certain restrictions because of the sensitive nature of the materials that identified jurors who had previously served on capital cases. We were bound to protect the identities of said jurors by the donor agreement and as well as the lasting restrictions of the original NEH grant that provided the funding for the three phases of the Capital Jury Project itself. It was the department's understanding that all personally identifiable information was to be redacted before transfer of materials, however this was not the case with much of the material. Therefore, the processing archivist and students had to take extreme measures restricting any sensitive information and this will be reflected in all future reference transactions with this collection. The Abraham Bonowitz Papers served as a particular challenge during the processing portion of the grant because of the nature of many activist records, lack of original order, and just complete disarray of the varying formats of materials. An MPLP approach was not an option. Our ultimate approach carefully considered the work of Mr. Bonowitz and his many years fighting to end the Death Penalty, both nationally and at the state level.

The University at Albany's Department of Special Collections was also able to use the grant as a springboard to develop an EAD finding aids repository to include EAD finding aids for all of the department's 834 manuscript collections using the software eXtensible Text Framework (XTF). The beta site can be found at: <http://library.albany.edu/archiveDev>

Celebrate New York History Month at the annual Researching New York Conference!

The 2016 Researching New York Conference will be held on November 17-19, 2016 University at Albany, SUNY.

The conference theme is *Looking Back—Looking Forward: Exploring Intersections of Society, Culture, Policy, & Law*, and this year we are pleased to join with the New York State Historical Association/Conference on New York State History, as well as our longtime partner, The Archives Partnership Trust, to present a single expanded 2016 conference exploring all aspects of New York State History.

Con't on page 6

Continued from page 6

Joining us are the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government and the Albany Law School, as we explore the implications of the 2017 vote on whether to hold a Constitutional Convention in New York State. The expanded program, in development, will also include additional workshops and opportunities for secondary school teachers.

Conference organizers invite proposals from any time period and any methodological perspective on any aspect of New York State history. The conference meets annually in November, bringing together historians, archivists, public historians, graduate students, museum curators, teachers, documentarians, and more to share their work on New York State history. Organizers welcome proposals for workshops, roundtables, panels, and individual papers from scholars, public history professionals, educators, librarians, and others engaged in the study and dissemination of New York State History. Work that addresses issues surrounding the interpretation, preservation, commemoration, and public presentation of New York State history is welcome.

Special Focus: As they do every 20 years, New Yorkers will vote, in 2017, on whether to hold a Constitutional Convention to change the New York State Constitution. Understanding this historically, in the larger context of society, politics, civic engagement, and more, informs current debates over convening a constitutional convention while enlarging our understanding of the civic life and history of New York State. Historically, debates leading up to and actual outcomes of Constitutional Conventions have often had wide ranging, if not always well-understood, implications for the citizens of New York.

The conference is sponsored by the University at Albany Department of History, the New York State Historical Association and cosponsored by the University at Albany M.E. Grenander Special Collections & Archives, the New York State Archives Partnership Trust and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. For further information-- if you have questions or comments, please contact us at resrchny@albany.edu. We look forward to your participation at this year's Conference.

News from Schenectady County Historical Society

The Schenectady County Historical Society has a new collection on the New York Heritage Digital Collections site with the help of a grant from the Capital District Library Council. Schenectady Street Scenes includes photos of businesses, churches, and industries along the streets of Schenectady. These images show the industrial development of the city, the historic Stockade neighborhood, the development of Erie Boulevard after the Erie Canal was filled in, and the city's eastward expansion. These photos give a glimpse of what it was like to live in Schenectady during the late 1800s and early 1900s. You can find this collection at <http://nyheritage.nnyln.net/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16694coll45>.

Fall Workshops Announced

DHPSNY is excited to announce the first in its series of educational workshops! Join us **November 15 in Highland** and **November 17 in Glens Falls** for *Understanding Archives: An Introduction to Archival Basics*. Stay tuned for a third location to be announced shortly.

DHPSNY's workshops promote interactive learning, networking, and collaboration. Free for New York institutions, DHPSNY's education programs address the needs of professionals and volunteers responsible for the care and handling of historical records. Presented throughout the state, workshops emphasize hands-on learning exercises and provide supplemental resources.

Understanding Archives: An Introduction to Archival Basics

Proper archival procedures enable safe and effective management of collections, yet volunteers, historians, and those with archival responsibilities in addition to other duties may find themselves in the position of "archivist" without formal training in the profession. Topics covered during this workshop include the fundamentals of archival appraisal, acquisition, and access; proper storage materials; and the most common preservation problems found with paper-based archival collections. This workshop will also provide an overview of archival processing, arrangement, and description.

More information can be found on the **DHPSNY website** for workshops at <http://www.dhpsny.org/>.

Also check the **New York State Archives website** for Fall workshops at: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops>.